

Preliminary Information Meetings (PIMs)

Resource for Responsible Adults



- The PIM is part of a new process by the Home Office, which is meant to improve the asylum process- see their [guidance](#).
- It is an alternative to the normal substantive asylum interview, available to young people who are eligible.
- The PIM is a meeting between a young person and the Home Office decision-maker, with an interpreter and responsible adult present (usually their Social Worker or Personal Advisor).
- According to the Home Office – the PIM is not an interview.

A PIM should be short.
It should speed up the asylum process.

- The young person **does not require a legal representative**, but they can attend if you do have one.

Currently the PIM is only available to young people who registered their asylum claim **before 6 March 2023**.

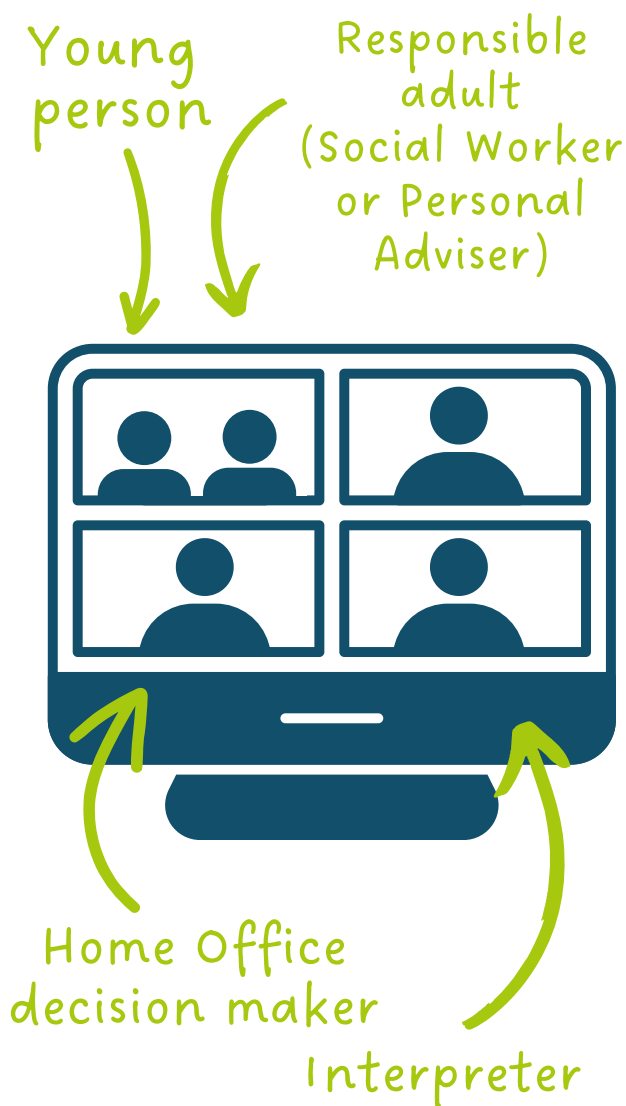
Currently only available to young people from **5 High-Grant nationalities**:



GMIAU has been told that children outside the PIM process will continue to have their asylum claims decided in the usual way and that they will still be triaged for decisions without a substantive interview (without a PIM).

What happens at the PIM?

- The PIM is usually via a Teams (video) meeting, somewhere private, but it can be requested in person.
- The young person will need a **Responsible Adult** to be with them.
- There is brief questioning on: identity and nationality; basis of asylum claim; family background; any evidence to be submitted; issues around welfare and safeguarding; your journey to the UK; and national security questions.
- **The young person can ask for a break at any time.** The responsible adult can ask for a break on their behalf.
- The meeting is not recorded. A written record is taken.
- If the young person does not have a legal representative (which they do not need for a PIM), **the responsible adult needs to take a written record of the PIM – the more detail the better!**
- They should note any issues encountered with the interviewer, the interpreter, impact on the child, as well as the questions and answers themselves. This will be important if the child is not granted asylum after the PIM.
- See our [briefing](#) for more tips.



What happens after the PIM?

- **The Home Office cannot refuse an asylum claim on the basis of a PIM.**
- They can either make a **POSITIVE DECISION**;
- Or, if more information is required, they can request a SEF form; a short, targeted interview or a full substantive interview.
- We recommend seeking legal representation if further information is required.

How to get a PIM?

- The policy states that the Home Office will invite eligible young people for PIMs, whether or not they have a legal rep.
- BUT we have not seen this happening often.
- The Home Office have a clear policy to streamline the asylum process, so it is possible to prompt them to send an invitation to eligible young people who are waiting.
- If a young person is eligible for a PIM, their Social Worker or Personal Advisor (or Responsible Adult) can request a PIM invitation from the Home Office.
- You can email LiverpoolAsylumAdmin@homeoffice.gov.uk to state:
 - ▶ Young Person's name, DOB, nationality and Home Office reference number (if you know it, on HO documents).
 - ▶ "In line with the Home Office's Streamlined Asylum Processing for Children Guidance, this young person is eligible for a PIM as [they] are a national of _____ and they claimed asylum before 6 March 2023. Please invite them for a PIM."
- If after requesting a PIM, the Home Office take another form of action, you can contact Nicola Burgess for advice at this stage nicola@gmiau.org