

## Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:

### Next steps for the UK asylum system

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



WESTMINSTER  
LEGAL POLICY  
FORUM

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **Assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the UK asylum system**  
**John Tuckett**, Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, and Immigration Services Commissioner  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Practical impacts of reform on claimants and support organisations**  
**Jonathan Featonby**, Chief Policy Analyst, Refugee Council
- 9.40 **Stakeholder views on reforming the asylum system - independence, transparency, and the appeals process**  
*assessing proposals to move towards conditional and time-limited asylum status / balancing efficiency with fairness in decision-making / operational changes to support efficiency / implications of wider legislative and policy changes for the asylum system / alignment with international obligations and maintaining public confidence / interaction with enforcement provisions in the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 / digital ID and age-verification / tackling risks around accuracy, privacy and discrimination*  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, judiciary  
Senior representative, legal  
Senior representative, technology
- 10.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.50 **'UK asylum reform: an international refugee law perspective'**  
**Vicky Tennant**, Representative to the United Kingdom, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- 11.00 **Scrutiny and legal standards - quality assurance, access to legal aid, and provision of wider support**  
*assessing quality assurance in asylum decisions / access to legal aid / alignment with human rights obligations and domestic legal safeguards / responding to court challenges and ensuring transparency in removals and detention / proposed updates to human rights and modern slavery legislation / concerns around changes to late disclosure rules*  
Senior representative, legal  
Senior representative, legal aid  
Senior academic
- 11.20 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Next steps for accommodation reform**  
*approaches to ending hotel use by 2029 / deployment of £200m in funding announced in the 2025 Spending Review / assessing options for alternative accommodation / improving contract oversight / addressing funding pressures faced by local authorities / managing dispersal and procurement transparency*  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, housing  
Senior representative, contractor  
Senior representative, community  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for reforming the UK asylum system**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary  
**Thomas Howard**, Westminster Legal Policy Forum