Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for the UK asylum system
Timing: Morning, Thursday, 11th February 2027
*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER LEGAL POLICY FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **Key findings from the inspection of asylum casework - decision-making, caseworker capability and next steps**
John Tuckett, Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Refugee protection standards and UK reform - core protection, temporary status, rights and safe routes**
Vicky Tennant, UK Representative, UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency

9.40 **Examining proposed reform under the *Immigration and Asylum Bill* - protection status, rights, safeguards and implementation**
the single core protection status and changes to rights and entitlements | 30-month grants, renewal and routes to settlement, including the proposed Protection Work and Study route | implications for family life, employment, education, housing and integration | Article 8, modern slavery and late claims, including enforcement objectives and individual safeguards | implementation requirements, including rules, guidance and secondary legislation still to be settled
Chris Rowe, Lecturer, Law, Swansea University
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, human rights
Senior representative, local authority

10.00 Questions and comments from the floor

10.20 **The proposed Independent Immigration Appeals Authority - capacity, independence, fairness and transition**
proposed remit, structure and relationship with the existing tribunal system | recruitment, training and independent appointment of adjudicators to increase appeals capacity | transition arrangements for outstanding cases, allocation and continuity of proceedings | reducing the appeals backlog and improving decision times, including the 24-week target for specified appeals | maintaining decision quality, procedural fairness and independence, including access to legal representation and expert evidence | proposed restrictions on further appeals, including permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal | prioritising cases, including high-harm foreign offenders and claims considered clearly without merit
Amber Rowsell, Supervising Solicitor, Asylum Aid
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, adjudication
Questions and comments from the floor

11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.05 Break

11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.20 **Safe and legal routes to the UK - the Resettlement Scheme, study and work routes, and community sponsorship**
Mubeen Bhutta, Director, Policy, Research and Advocacy, British Red Cross
Questions and comments from the floor

11.45 **Asylum support, accommodation and local impact - reform, service capacity and priorities for delivery**
ending the use of asylum hotels and expanding dispersal accommodation and larger sites | accommodation capacity, site suitability, planning, infrastructure and contractor performance | changes to asylum support, eligibility and entitlements, including risks of destitution and safeguarding needs | local authority involvement in site decisions, service coordination and funding | engagement with communities on proposals, safety, service pressures and cohesion | accommodation standards and support for people with particular needs | move-on arrangements and homelessness pressures | costs, accountability and value for money
Dr Lucy Mort, Principal Research Fellow and Head, Qualitative Research, Institute for Public Policy Research
Steven Lakey, Group Managing Director, Ready Homes
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, contractor
Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 **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 Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster Legal Policy Forum