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Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/JH-/4574/18

All Assembly Members

31 January 2019

Dear colleagues,

On 29 January 2019, we discussed the Welsh Government's new Nation of Sanctuary – Refugee and Asylum Seeker Plan in plenary. During the debate, I agreed to provide further detail about refugee resettlement in Wales. The UK Government publishes official quarterly immigration statistics on their website, with the latest available figures up to September 2018:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

In relation to Wales, all 22 local authorities have participated in the Syrian Vulnerable Peoples Resettlement Programme, with an overall published total of 893 arrivals under that scheme. We also know that the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme has led to 66 arrivals in Wales, providing a total of 959 arrivals under these resettlement programmes since their inception. However, we know that we are far closer to the 1,000 arrivals milestone and we expect further data to be published next month.

Although some local authorities have not resettled individuals in the past year, we do not doubt their commitment to resettlement and we will continue to work with local authorities and the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership to understand what can be done to increase resettlement. Often barriers arise due to UK Government policies on welfare benefits which make it difficult to source appropriate properties.

During this same time period, I would also like to acknowledge the hard work which Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Wrexham authorities have undertaken as asylum dispersal areas in supporting hundreds of asylum seekers. The asylum system is often overlooked but is a crucial part of our efforts to provide a sanctuary in Wales.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I would also like to ensure you have the correct figure regarding the funding provided to support Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in 2016-17 and 2017-18. This was £550,000. A further £200,000 has been provided this year.

Yours sincerely,
Jane

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