

NORTH EAST

RACE EQUALITY FORUM

INFORMATION BRIEFING

No. 19



The Windrush betrayal

I'm getting in touch to let you know, as a valued stakeholder of the department, that the Home Office has now published the Windrush Lessons Learned Review.

It is a profoundly important moment for those affected, for the Home Office and the Government.

This review represents an issue of national significance, which is why we published it immediately. The report was submitted to the Home Secretary on Wednesday 18 March and published within 24 hours.

The report was commissioned by the previous Home Secretary in 2018 and was carried out independently of Government by Wendy Williams, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary.

She was asked to conduct an independent investigation into how and why members of the Windrush generation came to suffer totally unacceptable treatment as a result of measures which were meant to tackle illegal migration.

The Home Secretary has given an Oral Statement to Parliament setting out the report's findings, providing the department's initial response and answering questions from MPs.

The Home Secretary made it clear that some members of the Windrush generation suffered terrible injustices spurred by institutional failings in the Home Office and that there are serious lessons to be learned, at all levels of the organisation.

Nothing we say can undo the suffering inflicted on those people who were affected. It is right that the Home Secretary has today apologised on behalf of the Home Office and successive governments who failed them.



The Government has already taken steps to give support and compensation to those affected but we know there is more for us to do.

The Home Secretary has committed to making sure the Home Office is a place that protects, supports and listens to every single part of the community it serves. Fundamentally, we want to make the Home Office a better place to work.

As requested by the report's author, independent adviser Wendy Williams, the Government will now take time to study in detail the report's findings and provide an update on its response before Parliament's summer recess.

Here are links to the [full independent report](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-lessons-learned-review) and the [Home Secretary's statement](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/windrush-lessons-learned-review) to Parliament [Both links below].

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-lessons-learned-review>

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I will be in touch again to keep you informed about changes arising from the report. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss the report or our response to it or have any other questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

Sarah

Sarah Worth

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Contact: For further information, back copies of Information Briefings or Research Briefings, or to join the Network email, gary.craig@galtres8.co.uk



The North East Race Equality Forum is a Network of around 300 individuals and organisations in the North East Region committed to promoting racial equality in the context of social justice. No one organisation is necessarily committed to every idea published in the name of the Forum. The Forum is supported by the 'Race', Crime and Justice Regional Research Network, which includes researchers from each University in the region.