# Petition calling for cuts to asylum seeker spending tops 300,000 signatures amid soaring government costs



Anger is brewing across the UK as a petition aimed at significantly cutting government spending on asylum seekers surges past 300,000 signatures. The movement seeks to reduce financial support for asylum seekers, including their accommodation and cash allowances, reflecting heightened public concern over immigration costs. Recent reports indicate that 32,000 migrants are currently residing in hotels, with an additional 70,000 provided alternate forms of housing. At present, the government reportedly allocates around £1.3 billion to hotel accommodations for asylum seekers, which constitutes a staggering three-quarters of the total funds designated for asylum accommodation in the financial year 2024-25. This overwhelming expenditure has prompted the National Audit Office (NAO) to revise its projections, forecasting future spending on housing asylum seekers could reach £15.3 billion—more than three times earlier estimates of £4.5 billion.

The petition, described as advocating for an end to “financial and other support provided to asylum seekers by the Government,” addresses a range of provisions, from accommodation and food through to medical care and cash support. Advocates for the petition argue that such support mechanisms inadvertently incentivise illegal migration, particularly from countries across the English Channel. Recent data reveals that a record 1,195 asylum seekers crossed the Channel in just one weekend, adding urgency to calls for reform. Alp Mehmet, chairman of Migration Watch UK, illustrated the situation by claiming that Britain's relatively comfortable accommodations make it an enticing destination for migrants and traffickers alike. Speaking to GB News, he emphasised, “Being put up in tax-funded, comfortable accommodation while you await a decision... strengthens the magnet.”

In tandem with the petition, the financial burdens facing the Home Office have significantly escalated. For the fiscal year 2023/24, the department earmarked a remarkable £5.38 billion for asylum support and accommodation—a 36% increase from the preceding year. This uptick highlights the ongoing difficulties the government faces in managing asylum-related expenditures effectively and points to a system under considerable strain. These financial pressures have drawn scrutiny and raised questions over the sustainability of current policies.

The sharp rise in costs is largely attributed to the continuing influx of asylum seekers arriving through the English Channel and the increasing expenses associated with their accommodation and support services. The government is grappling with how to balance the needs of those claiming asylum amidst rising public concern and fiscal limitations, making the debate over immigration policy more pressing than ever.

As the petition continues to gain traction, it will undoubtedly bring the issue of asylum support back into the political spotlight, potentially influencing future policy decisions. The outcome of this campaign may well reshape the landscape of immigration support in the UK as the government navigates the complexities of public opinion, humanitarian obligations, and fiscal responsibility.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2065736/petition-stop-migrant-hotel-spend-milestone), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/home-office-spends-record-5-billion-asylum-system-b1196825.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2065736/petition-stop-migrant-hotel-spend-milestone), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/home-office-spends-record-5-billion-asylum-system-b1196825.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/home-office-spends-record-5-billion-asylum-system-b1196825.html), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/home-office-cost-of-asylum-seeker-accommodation-treble-english-channel-b1226336.html)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2065736/petition-stop-migrant-hotel-spend-milestone> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/home-office-spends-record-5-billion-asylum-system-b1196825.html> - In 2023/24, the UK Home Office allocated a record £5.38 billion to asylum support and accommodation, marking a 36% increase from the previous year. This surge reflects the escalating costs associated with housing and supporting asylum seekers, underscoring the financial pressures on the UK's asylum system. The substantial rise in expenditure highlights the government's ongoing challenges in managing asylum-related costs effectively.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/home-office-cost-of-asylum-seeker-accommodation-treble-english-channel-b1226336.html> - The National Audit Office (NAO) has projected that the cost of housing asylum seekers in the UK will exceed £15.3 billion over the next decade, more than triple the initial estimate of £4.5 billion. This significant increase is attributed to the rising number of asylum seekers arriving via the English Channel and the escalating expenses of accommodation and support services.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/home-office-cost-of-asylum-seeker-accommodation-treble-english-channel-b1226336.html> - The National Audit Office (NAO) has projected that the cost of housing asylum seekers in the UK will exceed £15.3 billion over the next decade, more than triple the initial estimate of £4.5 billion. This significant increase is attributed to the rising number of asylum seekers arriving via the English Channel and the escalating expenses of accommodation and support services.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/home-office-cost-of-asylum-seeker-accommodation-treble-english-channel-b1226336.html> - The National Audit Office (NAO) has projected that the cost of housing asylum seekers in the UK will exceed £15.3 billion over the next decade, more than triple the initial estimate of £4.5 billion. This significant increase is attributed to the rising number of asylum seekers arriving via the English Channel and the escalating expenses of accommodation and support services.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/home-office-cost-of-asylum-seeker-accommodation-treble-english-channel-b1226336.html> - The National Audit Office (NAO) has projected that the cost of housing asylum seekers in the UK will exceed £15.3 billion over the next decade, more than triple the initial estimate of £4.5 billion. This significant increase is attributed to the rising number of asylum seekers arriving via the English Channel and the escalating expenses of accommodation and support services.
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/home-office-cost-of-asylum-seeker-accommodation-treble-english-channel-b1226336.html> - The National Audit Office (NAO) has projected that the cost of housing asylum seekers in the UK will exceed £15.3 billion over the next decade, more than triple the initial estimate of £4.5 billion. This significant increase is attributed to the rising number of asylum seekers arriving via the English Channel and the escalating expenses of accommodation and support services.