# Petition to cut asylum seeker benefits surpasses 125,000 signatures amid rising immigration concerns



A petition aimed at halting benefits for asylum seekers in the UK has surged past 125,000 signatures, generating momentum that could lead to a parliamentary debate under government guidelines. Initiated by Bob Clements, the petition calls for the government to stop providing financial assistance and essential services such as shelter and medical care to asylum seekers. Clements argues that these benefits inadvertently encourage illegal migration, especially through treacherous routes across the English Channel.

The petition's clear purpose is articulated: "This petition is to advocate a cessation of financial and other support provided to asylum seekers by the government." Critics argue that the current support system is tantamount to creating an open invitation for illegal migration. As the deadline for additional signatures approaches on June 20, the call for action resonates strongly within a populace increasingly frustrated by the government's handling of immigration issues.

In the House of Commons, Conservative MP Harriet Cross highlighted the financial implications of the asylum claims, referencing new research revealing that foreign nationals are soaking up nearly £1 billion in benefits each month. She underscored a staggering 9% rise in asylum claims since the Labour party assumed power, cautioning that the backlog in asylum appeals is on track to double by year-end. This statistic sheds light on the stark challenges posed by current immigration policies, as calls for rigorous measures to stem illegal migration intensify.

In response, Labour's migration minister, Seema Malhotra, attempted to defend the government's approach, accusing the opposition of "rewriting history." She controversially claimed that immigration levels had quadrupled under previous Conservative governments while asserting that current figures illustrate their commitment to significantly reducing net migration. However, Malhotra's assertions seem increasingly detached from the reality that many citizens perceive—the continuous strain on national resources is palpable.

The petition against asylum seeker benefits mirrors a broader sentiment brewing among the public, as similar initiatives gain traction, including calls to end the practice of housing asylum seekers in hotels, which cost taxpayers millions. Proponents argue it's essential to lift this financial burden, while opponents warn that stripping away support can deepen the suffering of vulnerable individuals seeking refuge.

As more parliamentary petitions, including one advocating for a temporary suspension of all immigration, gather substantial support—over 219,000 signatures—the urgency is evident. Growing public unease over both legal and illegal migration hints at a burgeoning demand for rigorous scrutiny of existing policies and a recalibration of priorities.

The heated discourse surrounding asylum seeker support reflects wider societal anxieties about immigration, particularly under the new government. With an electorate increasingly disenchanted by the Labour party's approach, the ramifications of these petitions are likely to shape not just policies but also the lives of countless individuals in search of safety and stability in the UK. As the pressure mounts, the political narrative is shifting, and opposition voices are gaining traction—an indication that the call for accountability and reform will echo louder in the halls of power.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2063993/petition-stop-benefits-asylum-seekers-milestone> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/705383> - A UK parliamentary petition advocating for the cessation of financial and other support provided to asylum seekers by the government. The petition, initiated by Bob Clements, calls for the discontinuation of shelter, food, medical care, and cash support, citing concerns that such provisions may inadvertently incentivise illegal migration, particularly via the English Channel. The petition had received 875 signatures as of June 4, 2025, with a deadline of July 20, 2025, for signatures.
3. <https://www.change.org/p/british-government-stop-wasting-tax-payers-money> - A Change.org petition urging the UK government to halt the allocation of taxpayer money to asylum seekers, redirecting funds to support British citizens. The petition highlights issues such as the housing crisis, financial burden, support for vulnerable groups, and the decline in social housing stock. It proposes solutions including stopping benefits to asylum seekers, addressing the housing crisis, supporting vulnerable groups, reducing food waste, and ensuring asylum seekers contribute to the system if allowed to stay in the UK.
4. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/628514> - A UK parliamentary petition requesting the government to stop housing asylum seekers in hotels and to stop paying benefits to suspected economic migrants. The petition argues that the refugee crisis is worsening, with increasing numbers of asylum seekers and economic migrants risking their lives to come to the UK. It calls for measures to make coming to the UK less attractive by stopping benefits to suspected economic migrants and housing asylum seekers in basic accommodation instead of hotels, which costs British taxpayers millions of pounds per day.
5. <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/326/petitions-committee/news/205610/> - An announcement from the UK Parliament's Petitions Committee regarding the debate of a petition titled 'Close the borders! Suspend ALL immigration for 5 years!' The petition, which had over 219,000 signatures, states that the UK is facing serious challenges from both legal and illegal migration and proposes suspending all immigration temporarily for five years. The debate was scheduled for March 10, 2025, with MPs from all parties participating and a government minister responding.
6. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2025-0046/> - A briefing paper from the House of Commons Library discussing the e-petition 'Close the borders! Suspend ALL immigration for 5 years!' The petition, which had over 218,000 signatures by February 2025, calls for suspending all immigration temporarily for five years due to challenges from legal and illegal migration. The government's response stated that it is taking action to reduce both illegal immigration and overall net migration without the economic damage that would come from suspending immigration entirely.
7. <https://petition.parliament.uk/archived/petitions/105658> - An archived UK parliamentary petition titled 'Stop all benefits to illegal immigrants completely.' The petition called for the government to act immediately and stop any form of benefit to all illegal immigrants, with a lifetime ban for anyone entering the United Kingdom illegally. The petition received 36,199 signatures before it was closed on February 5, 2016. The government's response stated that illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers are not entitled to, and do not get, benefits from the UK’s welfare system.