# Mail analysis reveals 300-plus charges linked to asylum seekers in taxpayer-funded hotels



The Daily Mail’s investigation into criminal charges linked to people housed in taxpayer-funded hotels across Britain has uncovered a troubling catalogue of offences — from assault and theft to drug offences, sexual offences and weapons charges — and reports that at least 300 asylum seekers were charged over a three‑year period. The analysis, which cross-matched thousands of magistrates’ court records to the addresses of around 65 hotels used under a Home Office accommodation scheme, argues the true scale may be larger because the dataset was limited and court records can be incomplete. According to the original report, hotels identified ranged from budget premises to higher‑end sites that were, at times of peak arrivals, turned almost entirely over to asylum accommodation.

The Mail’s methodology — cross‑referencing defendants’ recorded addresses with a list of hotels known to have been used to house asylum seekers — is clear about its limits. It notes that the Home Office does not publish statistics on offences by immigration status and that police reports seldom record a defendant’s nationality or asylum status, making independent verification difficult. The newspaper itself flags potential under‑counting where court sheets list multiple counts under a single charge or where records are missing.

The breakdown compiled for the investigation shows assault as the single most frequent allegation (69), followed by theft (54), drug‑related offences (45), sexual offences (35) and weapon offences (31). The Mail emphasises that its tally includes people charged, as well as those later acquitted or awaiting trial, and groups similar offences for clarity. This is exactly the sort of pattern that a reform‑minded, taxpayer‑first approach would insist on addressing: if we are shielding the public, we must know where the risk lies and who bears the cost.

The report’s human detail is stark. The BBC has covered one of the cases cited: Khaliz Ali Alshimery was found guilty of following a woman and raping her in the grounds of St Clement’s Church in Oxford on 19 November 2023 and was later jailed for 12 years, with an extended period of supervision on release, the BBC reported. Prosecutors and policing sources emphasised the risk he posed to the public. This is a sobering reminder that crime carries a real price for communities, and it underscores why a tougher, more accountable approach to housing decisions is essential.

Another serious case highlighted in regional coverage saw Ayman Adam, who had been staying at a nearby hotel, attack a woman in the female toilets of a Wakefield nightclub and later received a custodial sentence. Local reporting described the incident, the injuries sustained and the court’s findings about the defendant’s behaviour and risk, noting he was given an extended custodial term. Stories like this feed the growing belief that the current system is failing to protect ordinary voters and that hotel-based asylum housing can become a magnet for trouble unless kept tightly under control.

The Mail also points to concentrations of alleged offending around particular hotels. NationalWorld and other local outlets have reported that the Thistle City Barbican in central London was linked to 41 residents charged with more than 90 offences over three years, prompting protests and growing community concern about anti‑social behaviour and suspected illegal working. Residents and local councillors told reporters that repeated police call‑outs and visible deliveries have heightened tensions in surrounding streets. This pattern is exactly why a hard‑edged, taxpayers‑first policy would push for tighter restraints on where such housing is located, clearer rules for operators, and swifter action when problems arise.

The policing and public‑order issues sit alongside a separate but related fiscal debate. The National Audit Office has warned that the cost of accommodating asylum seekers has climbed sharply, with projected costs over the next decade rising to roughly £15.3 billion and hotels making up a disproportionate share of that bill. The Mail’s analysis points to government figures that show £3.1 billion was spent on hotels in 2023–24 and that around 30,000 people were staying in hotel accommodation at the time of its reporting. The NAO has raised concerns about large contract values and limited levers to control spending, prompting calls for tighter contract management. A reform-first approach would insist on publishing comprehensive, centralised data, tighter performance metrics for contractors, and a plan to reduce dependence on hotel stays as quickly as possible.

There is also official context on support paid to people in asylum accommodation. The Home Office’s 2023 review of weekly subsistence payments set the main rate for individuals in self‑catered accommodation at £49.18 per week while those in catered accommodation remain on a lower sum, figures that underpin wider public debate about costs and entitlements. In response to the Mail’s analysis, the Home Office said removal of foreign national offenders had increased since the last election and pointed to planned reforms, including provisions in the Border Security Bill intended to cancel asylum claims from people convicted of certain sexual offences. A reform‑minded policy would go further: end blanket sheltering, ensure that criminal‑offence cases are fast‑tracked for removal where appropriate, and insist that benefits and accommodation are tightly linked to lawful status and conduct.

The reporting has sharpened political and community pressures: a senior opposition politician told the Mail the findings were “shocking,” and local protests have followed high‑profile cases. But commentators and official auditors alike emphasise that the picture is incomplete — both in terms of the true incidence of offending and the full financial cost of housing asylum seekers — and have urged the government to publish more comprehensive, centralised data and to tighten contract and accommodation arrangements. The result is a contentious policy problem at the intersection of public safety, fiscal oversight and the treatment of people seeking protection, on which public debate is likely to remain intense until more robust official transparency and controls are in place. A reform‑minded approach would demand nothing less than a comprehensive overhaul: cap and redesign accommodation, publish full data, speed up decisions and removals where warranted, and put communities and taxpayers first.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14980585/common-offences-migrants-hotels-accused-analysis-Mail.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14980585/common-offences-migrants-hotels-accused-analysis-Mail.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - This Daily Mail investigation examines crimes allegedly committed by migrants housed in taxpayer-funded hotels across Britain. The piece reports that at least 300 asylum seekers were charged over three years, listing offences including assault, theft, drug offences, sexual assaults and weapons charges, based on court-record analysis linked to around 65 hotels used under a government accommodation scheme. It gives detailed case examples, names hotels and cites community anger and protests. The article also highlights government spending on hotel accommodation, Home Office responses promising tougher action and legislative measures, and suggests the true scale could be higher because official records are incomplete.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8vvvy6vp5zo> - This BBC News article reports on the trial and sentencing of Khaliz Ali Alshimery, who was jailed for 12 years for following and raping a woman in the grounds of St Clement’s Church in Oxford. It summarises the court’s findings, the sequence of events on 19 November, and the additional convictions for assault by penetration and multiple counts of sexual assault. The report quotes police and prosecuting officers, notes the imposition of an extended supervision period following the prison term, and emphasises the danger the offender posed to the public. The piece situates the case within local policing and victim protection commentary.
4. <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/predator-wild-grin-smothered-woman-29251456> - This YorkshireLive (ExaminerLive) article covers the Wakefield nightclub attack in which Ayman Adam assaulted a man and then attempted to rape a woman in the female toilets of Truth nightclub. It describes the prosecution’s account of events, the victim’s injuries and intervention by members of the public, and details from the pre-sentence report. The piece records that Adam was sentenced to an extended custodial sentence of seven years plus a three-year licence period, and includes comments from the investigating officer about the severity of the offences and the defendant’s risk to the public.
5. <https://www.nationalworld.com/news/uk/thistle-hotel-barbican-protest-to-take-place-outside-hotel-after-90-criminal-charges-brought-against-migrants-5253238> - This NationalWorld report covers community reaction and planned protests outside the Thistle City Barbican hotel after it emerged that dozens of residents linked to the hotel had been charged with a large number of offences. The article states that 41 migrants had been connected to more than 90 criminal charges over a three-year period, naming alleged offences such as sexual assault, arson, theft, carrying knives and drug offences. It describes local concerns about anti-social behaviour, incidents of suspected illegal working and prior arrests by immigration enforcement, and records calls for greater scrutiny of hotels used for asylum accommodation.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/07/uk-asylum-seeker-accommodation-costs-over-decade-triple-to-15bn-nao> - This Guardian article reports on the National Audit Office’s findings that asylum accommodation costs are set to be far higher than initially forecast, with projected costs over a decade rising to about £15.3 billion. It explains that hotels account for a disproportionate share of costs and that large contract values have increased, while the number of people in paid accommodation rose sharply. The piece outlines NAO concerns about poor contract controls and limited levers to contain costs, describes the proportion of asylum seekers in hotels, and reports political reactions and Home Office comments about reform and reducing hotel use.
7. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-review-of-cash-allowance-paid-to-asylum-seekers/report-on-review-of-weekly-allowances-paid-to-asylum-seekers-and-failed-asylum-seekers-2023> - This Home Office publication sets out the 2023 review of weekly subsistence payments for asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers. It explains the methodology used to calculate rates, and lists the revised main rates: the allowance for individuals in self-catered accommodation was increased to £49.18 per week, while the catered accommodation rate was adjusted (noting earlier interim figures). The report also details changes to additional payments for pregnant women and young children, the maternity grant and the legislative changes that came into force in January 2024. It provides official context for how support payments are determined and adjusted.