

**Rt Hon Harriet Harman KC MP**  
Member of Parliament for Camberwell and Peckham  
Mother of the House of Commons

## **Parliamentary Report**

**September 2023**



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## This is my September report 2023 in which I:

- share with you how I'm going about my work as MP,
- hear from you if you agree with how I'm approaching things and
- what further issues you think I should be addressing.

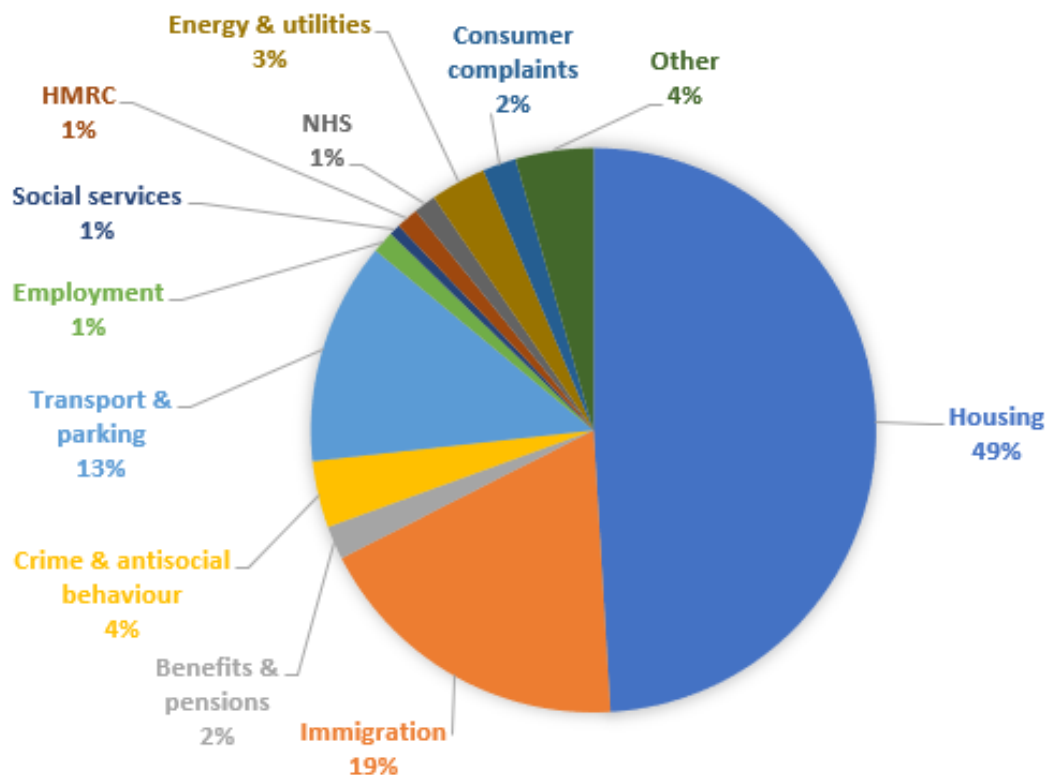
*Haniel Hamman*

## Constituency problems - update

There continues to be an increase in the number of constituents seeking my help with their problems.

## New cases breakdown – August 2023

In August I took action on **656** cases and recouped **£179,005** for constituents. In 2023 so far I have recouped **£244,644.06** for constituents.



## Case summaries:

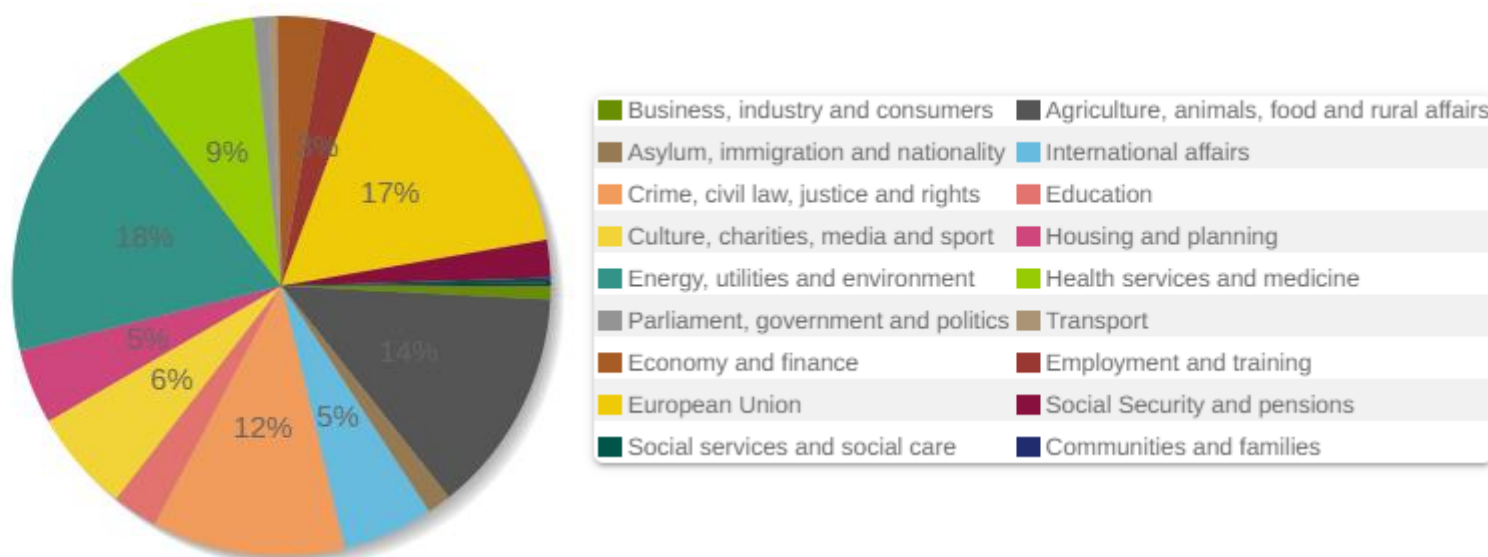
- A mother with autistic children living in Camberwell contacted me because she had been without electricity in her Council property for 6 weeks due to a fault. Her family had to use battery-powered torches for light and black mould and damp had developed in her bathroom because they couldn't turn on the

extractor fan. My constituent contacted Southwark Council but they had still not resolved the issue. I wrote to Southwark Council to request that they urgently undertake the necessary repairs. The Council carried out the repairs and restored electricity to the property.

- I was contacted by a Peckham woman who had been living with a friend for several years but was asked to leave the property and became homeless. She told me that she had contacted Southwark Council about her homelessness but did not receive a satisfactory response. I urgently wrote to Southwark Council on her behalf to ask whether she could be housed in suitable council accommodation. I was then contacted by my constituent who confirmed that she had been given temporary accommodation in Peckham.
- A woman living in Camberwell contacted me to report concerns about bus idling and noise pollution around Camberwell Bus Garage. I shared the woman's concerns with the bus company Abellio London and received a response outlining the steps that they have adopted to monitor and reduce idling and noise levels. I shared this response with my constituent who has confirmed that the issues have now been addressed.
- A Southwark Council tenant wrote to me about a water leak at his home that was causing damage to the property. I wrote urgently to Southwark Council to ask that they repair the leak as soon as possible. Southwark Council confirmed that following my contact they had carried out the repairs to stop the leak and offered my constituent £183 compensation for the delay in resolving this. My constituent confirmed that the repairs had been completed satisfactorily.
- A man living in Peckham contacted me for help with his daughter's passport application. He had applied for a British passport for his daughter and had submitted her Spanish passport to support the application but the Home Office had yet to return the documentation to them and the family were now unable to go on holiday without the passport. I wrote to the Home Office to request an update on the progress of the application and to ask that the Home Office return the child's Spanish passport to enable her to travel. I received a response from the Home Office confirming that the Spanish passport had been returned to the family and that the British passport was issued.
- I was contacted by a Camberwell man who objected to a parking fine of £60 that he had received from Civil Enforcement Ltd at Butterfly Walk Carpark. He had attempted to appeal the fine as the parking meter was not working on the day he received it but he had not received a response to his appeal. Instead the case was escalated by Civil Enforcement Ltd to a debt collection agency and the amount owed increased. I wrote to Civil Enforcement Ltd about my constituent's case and as a result the original fine and additional fees for non-payment were written off, a total of £170.
- I was contacted by a Peckham man for help because he was due to become homeless after Southwark Council issued a Notice to Quit. I urgently wrote to the council asking for them to outline what support is available to him to ensure that he does not become homeless. I was then contacted by my constituent who informed me that he has since been given temporary accommodation in Camberwell.

- A Peckham woman wrote to me because she has been acting as a carer for her sister for four years without a day off and was having difficulties seeking support from the Council to enable her to take some time for rest and recuperation. I wrote to Southwark Council on her behalf and they agreed to review her care package. As a result, my constituent's sister now receives twice daily home calls, and she attends a day care centre two days per week to enable my constituent to take some time for herself and to feel supported in continuing her caring role.

## Policy issues breakdown



In August I received **494** emails from constituents on policy issues including:

- Support Shelter's campaign to end the housing emergency – I agree we need to build more homes and put affordable housing at the heart of the solution
- Ban E-collars for animals – I support a ban on the use of electronic shock collars.
- Push the Government to go further to tackle the climate and nature crisis – I oppose the Bill, which threatens teachers and nurses with the sack, attacks fundamental freedoms of working people and does nothing to resolve problems affecting our services.
- Support onshore wind – I supported amendments to the Energy Bill in favour of onshore wind.
- No new oil and gas projects in the North Sea – I share concerns on this issue. The Government's plan for new exploration in the North Sea is the wrong answer for the climate emergency.
- Support the campaign for a completely new Mental Health Emergency Helpline– I support a long-term, whole-Government plan to improve mental health outcomes, prioritise prevention, make early intervention a reality
- Support a review of mileage rates – I share your concerns and I will continue to monitor developments on this issue closely



## Officer charged with murder of Chris Kaba

On September 20<sup>th</sup> it was announced that the police officer who shot Chris Kaba has been charged with murder. My deepest sympathy remains with Chris' family and I continue to monitor this case closely. It is important that this case proceeds to trial. In accordance with normal fair trial procedure, and to avoid any

suggestion that there will not be a fair trial due to the case being prejudged, I will be making no further public comment on the circumstances of this case.

## Incident at Rye Lane Hair and Cosmetics

I am aware of the incident on Rye Lane on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September and remain in contact with the local borough police commander on this issue. I visited the area on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September.



## Farewell Camberwell and Peckham

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September I attended a social with local Councillors and my successor Miatta Fahnbulleh to say farewell to Camberwell and Peckham Constituency Labour Party. At the next election the boundaries will change, and the constituency will become Peckham.

You can view a farewell Camberwell and Peckham video montage [here](#).

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, along with Miatta and members of Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party, we held our last CLP meeting.

I owe more than I can ever say to Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party. I can never thank everyone enough and I have complete trust and confidence in Miatta to be an excellent MP for the new constituency of Peckham.



## Speech at the TUC conference

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September I gave the Sororal Address at the annual conference of the Trades Union Congress. You can read my speech [here](#) and watch it [here](#).

At the conference I was also able to catch up with a number of colleagues in the trade union movement, including the General Secretary of Unite Sharon Graham and the President of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Sandi Toksvig.

I was also pleased to join trade union colleagues at a reception for them hosted by the Leader of the Opposition Keir Starmer MP on 5<sup>th</sup> September.



Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman · Sep 13

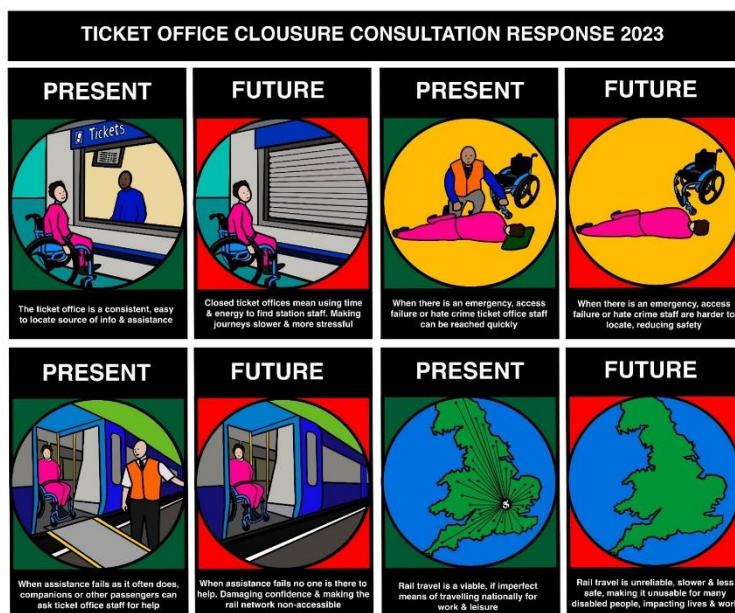
Caught up with so many friends at @TheTUC in L'Pool. Congrats on a great conf! @UniteSharon @sanditoksvig @WGGBLesley @DianaHolland\_ @unitetheunion @unisontheunion



## Protesting against planned railway ticket office closures

For many people, public transport is essential for their independence and ability to be part of society. But using public transport such as trains requires support from the hardworking and vital staff who operate ticket offices at stations. Under current proposals almost all of England's 1,000 ticket offices are due to be closed, with offices remaining open at only the very busiest stations and interchanges. It would mean that major stations in Camberwell and Peckham, including Denmark Hill, Peckham Rye and Queens Road Peckham, would have their ticket office opening hours affected.

I wrote to the CEOs of Southern and Southeastern expressing my concern and opposition as part of the national consultation on this issue. I hope that Ministers will listen to the strength of opposition and reverse this terrible decision. You can read my letters [here](#).



1. Picture credit:

<https://twitter.com/touretteshero/status/1684131272510042113>

## Interview with Pro Bono Economics

I sat down with Pro Bono Economics as part of their "Ministers Insights" series to discuss my experience of working with charities whilst in government, and sharing advice for charities seeking to engage with Ministers. You can read my interview in full [here](#).

## Speaking at PR Mums inaugural "monthly salon"

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September I spoke at an inaugural event for PR Mums. PR Mums is a PR &



communications recruitment business connecting PRs who have taken time out for childcare with employers.

The event was attended by almost 100 PR mums looking to get back into employment and progress in their careers. We discussed many issues including the gender pay gap, ageism, flexible working, maternity and paternity rights, women's health, fertility and childcare and how the current government is failing women.



### **Speaking at the Co-Operative Party conference**

On 9<sup>th</sup> September I participated in the Co-Operative Party's annual conference in conversation with the Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, Anneliese Dodds MP. We discussed the history of the Equality Act 2010 and what still needs to be done to guarantee

equality for everyone in the UK, including giving the Equality and Human Rights Commission greater powers to ensure that it can fine and sanction businesses which fail to close their gender pay gap.

### **Guardian live event with Margaret Hodge MP**

It was a pleasure to sit down with Margaret Hodge MP and the editor of the Guardian Katherine Viner to reflect on my career in Parliament over 40 years. Almost 1000 people attended in-person and online, and you can watch the talk [here](#).



### **Politics Hub with Sophie Ridge**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September I appeared on Politics Hub, hosted by Sophie Ridge, alongside former Chancellor of the Exchequer Ken Clarke. We discussed the state of the country, sexism in football, and political insults. You can watch the episode [here](#).

### **Urging the Government to ban the use of non-disclosure agreements in the workplace**

On 5<sup>th</sup> September I spoke in a debate on the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements in the workplace initiated by Maria Miller MP. Non-disclosure agreements are unfair on the individual. They double down and are a ratchet on discrimination and they are perilous for the organisations, as



covering up wrongdoing corrodes the organisation. I urged the Government to ban such agreements from the workplace. You can watch my intervention [here](#).

## Speaking at event to launch report on women's representation in Parliament

On 18<sup>th</sup> September I gave the closing remarks at an event hosted by the Fawcett Society and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women in Parliament to launch a new report, "[Open House: Where Next for Gender Equality in Parliament](#)". I spoke about the importance of men stepping up and being allies to support women to get into Parliament and to stay there.



## Election for Chair of the Committee on Standards

On 6<sup>th</sup> September Chris Bryant MP announced that he was stepping down as chair of the Committee on Standards. I have announced that I am running to replace him. The election will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October and every MP in the House of Commons is eligible to cast a vote.

My letter to MPs:

*Dear Colleagues*

*After strong encouragement from colleagues across the House and because I feel both enthusiastic about the role and honoured to be approached by others to do it, I have decided to put myself forward to stand for election for Chair of the Committee on Standards.*

*As you all know this committee has a clear and specific remit: it is tasked with considering complaints referred to it by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and for overseeing the work of the Commissioner. The vacancy has arisen because Chris Bryant has joined Labour's Front Bench.*

*The Committee on Standards plays a vital role. What we do, how we manage our inquiries, the outcomes we reach and how we communicate about them is important in restoring and maintaining confidence in Parliament, MPs and our democracy. We must be absolutely fair to MPs and demonstrate integrity to the public.*

*I'm putting myself forward because:*

- 1. I will chair the committee in a totally non-partisan way. I will work collaboratively with all members of the committee and I will always strive to seek consensus, as I did in the recent Privileges Committee Inquiry where we came to a unanimous decision.*
- 2. I will chair inquiries in a timely manner, and will ensure that our inquiries are forensic and fair.*



3. *I will bring to my work as Chair my experience as Leader of the House, Shadow Leader of the House, Solicitor General and Chair of Privileges.*

*My only aim is to do a good job for the House and for all Members of the House, so that we can contribute through our work to ensuring a strong democracy that enjoys the confidence of the British people. I would be very grateful for your support and I would be happy to answer any questions you would like to ask either online or in person.*

## Help and Support

### Concerned about rising cost of living? Finding support in Southwark:

If you, or someone you are supporting is struggling financially, there are lots of organisations in Southwark that can help. Southwark Council's Cost of Living support can all be found on their [website](#).

Residents who receive certain benefits and need urgent financial support can apply to the Southwark Emergency and Hardship Support, found [here](#).

Find out what further government support you might be able to get to help with your living costs [here](#).

Information about grants and other financial support can be found [here](#).

Cost of living support for businesses can be found [here](#).

### Free confidential advice:

- [Citizens Advice Southwark](#)

Citizens Advice Southwark provide free, confidential, independent and impartial advice to help people resolve their problems with money, housing, employment, legal issues, and more.

Advice line: 080 8278 7849

Drop-in sessions from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm 5 days a week at:

- Peckham - 97 Peckham High Street, SE15 5RS
- Bermondsey - 8 Market Place, Southwark Park Road, SE16 3UQ
- Walworth – 6-8 Westmoreland Road, Walworth, SE17 2AY

### Domestic abuse help and support:

- [Solace Women's Aid](#) - Advice Line - 0808 802 5565

Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm. Additional 6pm - 8pm on Tuesdays.

Email: [advice@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:advice@solacewomensaid.org)

- [National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#)

The freephone, 24-hour Helpline: 0808 2000 247

### **Support for victims of crime:**

- [Victim Support South London](#)

South London Victim Assessment and Referral Service on freephone: 0808 168 9291, then dial 3

Lines are open 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturdays.

If you need support outside of open hours, call the Supportline on freephone 0808 1689 111

### **Mental health help and support:**

- [Lambeth and Southwark Mind](#)

020 8159 8355 - 8am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

- [Samaritans](#) - 116 123 - 24/7

- [The Nest](#) - 020 8138 1805

### **Support for older people:**

- [Southwark Pensioners](#)

Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

020 7708 4556 [info@southwarkpensioners.org.uk](mailto:info@southwarkpensioners.org.uk)

- [Age UK Lewisham and Southwark](#)

020 7701 9700 phone line open 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Friday

### **Legal advice:**

- [Southwark Law Centre](#)

- [Migrant Legal Action](#)

53 Addington Square, London. SE5 7LB

Opening hours: Monday- Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm. Appointment only.

Reception: 0207 701 0141

Advice Line: 0203 150 1470 (2:00pm to 4:00pm)

Email: [info@migrantlegalaction.org.uk](mailto:info@migrantlegalaction.org.uk)

- [Cambridge House Law Centre](#)

Provides legal advice and advocacy services by way of appointment for individuals and families dealing specifically with housing, employment, benefits, and community care issues.

Printworks, Unit F, 22 Amelia Street, London SE17 3BZ

Telephone: 020 7358 7025

Email: [lawcentre@ch1889.org](mailto:lawcentre@ch1889.org)

- [Disability Law Service](#)

Provides free legal advice to disabled people, their families and carers. For issues of employment and discrimination at work, or welfare benefits:

Advice Line: 0207 791 9800

Opening hours: Monday-Friday, 10am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm

### **Food and essentials:**

- [Southwark Food Action Alliance](#)

Southwark Food Action Alliance is a group of local organisations that care about good food for all in the borough. Many of its members provide food support to Southwark residents. The SFAA website has information on low-cost recipes and maps showing where you can learn to grow food and where food support services are located in Southwark. Some food support services are only for specific groups, such as older adults. So do check who the service is for before visiting.

- [Pecan foodbank](#)

Peckham Methodist Church, 2 Wood's Rd, SE15 2PX. Monday and Thurs 1pm to 3pm (by appointment only).

Pecan foodbanks work using a voucher referral system. In order to get help from Pecan, people need a voucher issued by a local agency before arriving at a centre. For more information email [foodbank.support@pecan.org.uk](mailto:foodbank.support@pecan.org.uk) or call 020 7732 0007.

Pecan also run [Peckham Pantry](#). Members of Peckham Pantry pay £4.50 per shop, which gives access to fresh fruit and veg and store cupboard favourites – to the value of £15 or more. For further information please contact [pantry@pecan.org.uk](mailto:pantry@pecan.org.uk) or 020 7277 7075.

- [Spring Community Hub Foodbank](#)

Spring Community Hub, 1 Wilson Road, Modular Building, SE5 8LU. Thursday and Friday 10am to 1pm. Spring Community Hub Foodbanks also work on a referral system. For more information email [office@springcommunityhub.org](mailto:office@springcommunityhub.org) or call 07901 617 189.

## **Concerned about British nationals who need assistance in Ukraine?**

Consular support is still available to British nationals through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office helpline (open 24 hours, 7 days a week) on:

**+380 44 490 3660** (from Ukraine)

**+44 (0) 1908 516666** (from the UK)

[Click here for UK Government advice about the situation in Ukraine.](#)

## **Concerned about non-British family members in Ukraine?**

The British Government has announced that British nationals and people of any nationality settled in the UK will be supported to bring family members to the UK. This includes immediate family members (under Family Migration visas) as well as parents, grandparents, adult children and siblings (under the Ukraine Family Scheme).

To check your eligibility and begin the application call the helpline (open 24 hours, 7 days a week) on:

From Ukraine: **+44 808 164 8810** – select option 1

From the UK: **0808 164 8810** if you are in the UK – select option 1

[Find further information on UK Government guidance support to Ukrainian nationals and their families.](#)

## **Concerned as a Ukrainian national in the UK?**

The Home Office has agreed some temporary concessions to support Ukrainian nationals currently in the UK who are now unable to return when their existing visa expires.

If you are in the UK and need assistance, contact UKVI on:

**0808 164 8810** – select option 2

Monday to Thursday (excluding bank holidays), 9am to 4:45pm.

Friday (excluding bank holidays), 9am to 4:30pm.

[Find further information on UK Government guidance support to Ukrainian nationals and their families.](#)

## **Need legal advice?**

The Ukraine Advice Project UK offers free legal advice on UK immigration, visas and asylum by qualified legal advisors for Ukrainians affected by the crisis.

Send details of your circumstances and the advice you need to:

[ukraine@freemovement.org.uk](mailto:ukraine@freemovement.org.uk)

Find further information from [Ukraine Advice Project UK.](#)

**Concerned about British and non-British nationals who have been affected by the situation in Afghanistan?**

Please click on link to information and advice:

- [Support for British and non-British nationals in Afghanistan](#)
- [Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme](#)
- [Afghanistan - Foreign travel advice](#)
- [Support for veterans](#)



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