



Craig Whittaker MP

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Response to Relocation of Unaccompanied Children from Europe – January 2017

Thank you for contacting me about the relocation of unaccompanied children from Europe.

The UK has contributed significantly to hosting, supporting and protecting the most vulnerable children affected by the migration crisis. In the year ending September 2016, the UK had granted asylum or another form of leave to over 8,000 children. Similarly since October 2016, the Government has transferred more than 750 unaccompanied children to the UK in support of the French operation to clear the Calais camp, including approximately 200 children who meet the criteria for section 67 of the Immigration Act.

The current phase of transfers from France has now been completed in conjunction with the French authorities. The remaining children, who do not qualify to come to the UK, are safe and in the care of the French authorities, and the Government is working closely with the French authorities to ensure that children remaining in France are provided with information on how to claim asylum there.

It is important to remember that all minors with close family in the UK were considered for transfer, regardless of age or nationality. In addition, those aged 12 or under and those at high risk of sexual exploitation were considered regardless of nationality.

The UK's obligations under the Dublin Regulation will continue to be met, while more eligible children will be transferred from Europe, in line with the terms of the Immigration Act, in the coming months, and this will include children from France.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP