



**QUESTIONS TO THE  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, CABINET MEMBERS  
AND/OR  
CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2019

**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HANNAFORD  
Re: Windrush Scandal**

Do we know if anyone in the DCC area has been affected by the Windrush Scandal? If so, how many?

Have there been any forced deportations or exclusions of return? If required what interagency work has been done or is programmed, to give help and support?

**REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD**

Between 1948 and 1973 many Commonwealth citizens came to the UK under successive pieces of immigration legislation. Some of these individuals, particularly those from Caribbean nations, have recently become known as the Windrush generation. The Government amended existing immigration legislation with the Immigration Act 1971, which came into force in 1973. At this time, Commonwealth immigrants already settled in the UK were given indefinite leave to remain, but many were not issued with any documentation, and the Home Office kept no records confirming these individuals' status. Over at least the past 10 years the Government has further reformed immigration policies according to the principle that the right to live, work and access services in the UK should only be available to those migrants who are eligible. In the spring of 2018, the media began to report stories of people who had come to the UK from the Commonwealth, being denied access to public services, being detained in the UK or at the border, or removed from, or refused re-entry to, the UK. It was reported that some people did not have the paperwork to prove their legal right to reside in the UK. In April 2018, the Government acknowledged that the Windrush generation had been treated unfairly and set up a taskforce and scheme to help individuals to resolve their immigration status. The Home Office's Windrush Taskforce offers support and guidance to individuals on the Windrush Scheme and how to apply. The Government has also established the Windrush Compensation Scheme for people who suffered a loss because they could not demonstrate their lawful right to live in the UK.

The County Council does not offer support or guidance to Commonwealth citizens and other nationalities who have been lawfully resident in the UK for a long time but who do not have documents to demonstrate their status. The Home Office is running a series of public events to raise awareness of the Compensation Scheme and the work of the Windrush taskforce. The nearest event to Devon will take place in Bristol (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-compensation-scheme#windrush-engagement-events> ).

For anyone in Devon seeking advice in relation to Windrush, the Migrant Legal Project in Plymouth (<http://migrantlegalproject.com/>) offers not-for-profit legal advice and representation across the South-West. Pro-bono advice and support is also available in Exeter from the University Law School's Community Law Clinic (<http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/law/communitylawclinic/> )

Windrush Day was introduced in 2018, on the 70th anniversary of the landing of the first Caribbean migrants, to celebrate the contribution of the Windrush Generation and their descendants. Backed by government funding, the day - which in 2019 falls on Saturday 22nd June - features a range of events, activities and exhibitions across the country. In the South West, Devon Development Education have secured funding to organise celebratory events in three towns across the county.