

## The day of your hearing at the Asylum Support Tribunal

### What to bring with you

If you have been asked to bring evidence such as bank statements or letters from charities that support your appeal you should bring them with you. Please also bring any other documents that may be relevant to your request for support.

If you need support immediately after your appeal, and your appeal is successful you may be able to access emergency accommodation in London. If you want to do this it is important to bring all your belongings with you because the Home Office won't pay for you to return to collect them

### Traveling to your hearing

The Home Office must provide you with travel tickets to get you to London and back again, normally on the train, and then from the station to the Asylum Support Tribunal.

### If you need to travel the day before your hearing

If your appeal is listed in the morning and you have a long way to travel the Home Office may arrange for you to travel the day before and stay overnight at Barry House. Barry House is Home Office accommodation near East Dulwich in South London.

### When to arrive

Your ticket allow you to travel early enough so that you arrive at the tribunal one hour before your hearing. Travel tickets will be arranged by the Home Office and will be sent to you by post. Alternatively you may have to collect your ticket from the station.

### What the Asylum Support Tribunal does

The asylum support tribunal is responsible for handling appeals against decisions by the Home Office to:

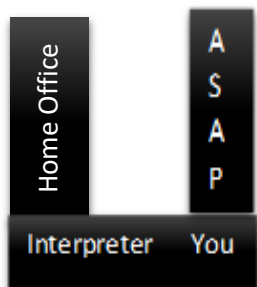
- refuse an application for asylum support
- discontinue existing asylum support

Your asylum support appeal is separate from your claim for asylum, the decision made at the asylum support tribunal has no impact on your claim for asylum. The decision will be whether you are eligible for housing and financial support from Home Office.

The address of the Tribunal is:

2nd Floor,  
Import Building  
2 Clove Crescent  
London, E14 2BE

## What the tribunal room will look like



The Tribunal room is a normal room with a large table where everyone sits during the hearing.

## How to address the Judge

Male judges are addressed as Sir and female judges as Madam.

## Role of the Home Office Presenting Officer

A Home Office Presenting Officer (HOPO) might be present during your hearing. They did not make the decision on your case but are there to explain the Home Office's decision to the Judge. They may ask you questions that you feel you have already answered or that feel very personal, but it is important to answer each question with as much detail as you can. If you think they have misunderstood something you have said you should explain this to the Judge.

## Interpreters

If you have requested an interpreter on your notice of appeal you will be provided with one. The interpreter cannot advise you, they are there only to interpret for you. If you do not understand the interpreter it is important you tell the Judge, equally if at any time during the hearing you think the interpreter has misinterpreted something you should immediately tell your ASAP representative or the Judge.

## Breaks for toilet etc.

If you need to go to the toilet during your hearing or have a small break because you feel unwell or upset you should let the judge know and they will usually agree to break for a short time.

## Breastfeeding and baby changing

If you wish to breastfeed in private, a room will be made available to you. Please note there are no baby changing facilities at the Tribunal, so please bring a changing mat if you can.

## Prayer room

There is a Prayer room available for use.

## Water / food

Water is provided for you during the hearing and in the reception area. No food will be provided to you at the Tribunal. There are a limited number of shops and cafes nearby if you are able to purchase food before or after your hearing.

## Children and childcare

There are no childcare facilities at the Tribunal, your children will have to go into the hearing with you. This is likely to make it difficult for you to focus on the hearing so, if possible, you should arrange childcare for your children rather than bring them to the hearing. We know this can be very difficult to arrange and, in some circumstances, you will have no choice but to bring your children with you.

## The hearing

- The Judge will introduce himself/herself and the other people in the room.
- They will check that you understand the interpreter and explain the purpose of the hearing.
- They will then ask the Home Office representative to explain their view.
- After this your representative will briefly explain your case.
- Once they have done this your representative will ask you some questions. If you do not have a representative the Judge will ask you questions.
- It is then the turn of the Home Office representative, who may also ask you questions.
- The Judge might ask you questions at any point.
- Once the Home Office representative has finished, your representative might ask some follow up questions.
- After this no-one can introduce any new evidence.
- Finally, both representatives will summarise the case and evidence one after the other.
- The Judge will then make a decision on your case.

What the judge means when s/he says:

Your Appeal is allowed – you have been successful and will get support from the Home Office.

Your Appeal is dismissed – the Judge agrees with the Home Office and you will not get support.

Your Appeal is remitted – the Judge wants the Home Office to reconsider their decision.

## What happens after your hearing

If you have been represented by ASAP you will be given an advice letter explaining what happened, you should show this to your caseworker when you next see them.

**If your appeal has been successful** and you need accommodation you can access emergency Home Office accommodation in London. If you do access this accommodation you will stay there until the Home Office disperse you. It is very unlikely you will get dispersal accommodation in London. If you go to the emergency accommodation in London it is also not guaranteed that you will be dispersed to the area you have been staying in prior to the appeal.

Although providing emergency accommodation after a successful appeal is specifically for section 4 applicants, if you win your section 95 appeal you can also request to be housed immediately and this request might be granted. If it is not you can make an application for emergency support and accommodation known as a section 98 application through Migrant Help. For more information please see our [factsheet 16 Emergency Support following a successful s4 appeal](#) and [factsheet 17 Section 98 support](#).

If your appeal is being heard via video-link and is successful and you need accommodation immediately after the hearing you will not be accommodated in London but you may still have to travel to another town or city. The Home Office will arrange this for you.

**If your appeal has been remitted** and you are already on support, this will continue until the Home Office has made a new decision. If you are not already on support you will need to wait for a new Home Office decision. Please contact your [local refugee advice organisation](#) for advice.

**If your appeal has been refused** and you are already on support your support will usually stop after 21 days. Please contact your [local refugee advice organisation](#) for assistance.