

Extracts from Full Report

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP): Emerging Trends

The Afghan Pro Bono Initiative (APBI) has identified significant challenges to accessing safe routes through the ARAP scheme in its new report: “[Still Waiting: The Afghans Abandoned by the UK](#)”. The key issues affecting these vulnerable individuals are unstable accommodation, slow decision-making, and challenges around Triples cases.



A child selling balloons. Pol Shokhta Street, Kabul, Afghanistan (2022). Photo Credit: ©Kayhan

Accommodation Issues for Afghans Under ARAP

The ongoing lack of suitable long-term accommodation for Afghans under the ARAP scheme poses significant integration challenges. As of April 2024, around [4,600 arrivals](#) were being housed in military accommodation. This is particularly problematic where people have begun to put down roots and develop a support network in their initial area. Afghan arrivals have highlighted that integrating into a new way of life is hard enough without having to do it multiple times, particularly for their children who start school in one area and then have to move.

Delays in Decision-Making

It is positive that there are now around double the number of ARAP [caseworkers](#) compared with January 2023 which were the latest figures we had seen when last year’s report, [Two Years of Empty Promises](#), was published. Despite this, although progress has been made over the past year to clear the backlog and 98% of applicants have now received a decision, 80% of those still waiting have been waiting for a year or more.

The ‘Triples Cases’

Members of the Afghan units (e.g. CF333, AT444) face unique challenges in securing ARAP relocation. Many applications are rejected due to the interpretation of [employment status](#), despite their critical support to British forces. In February 2024, the then-UK Government announced a [re-examination](#) of Triples applications after significant media and parliamentary scrutiny. However, clarity on when these reviews will occur remains lacking.

The APBI report highlights that, despite some progress, significant barriers remain for Afghans under the ARAP scheme. Scan the QR Code below or click [here](#) to read the full report.

*“Through our casework and receiving many referrals from Triples members, we have seen how hard it is for applications from Triples members to be successful under ARAP. APBI has seen very little success regarding resettlement in any of the Triples cases it has been involved in. From the communication APBI has had, it appears that the Ministry of Defence has been looking at these cases under Category 4 i.e. those who ‘worked closely alongside the Government and contributed to the UK’s military or national security objectives’. We understand that it is the UK Special Forces who verifies these particular cases, but according to sources of **The Independent**, the UK Special Forces had been obstructing the process and not approving many cases, leading to what were effectively blanket rejections for Triples applications. However, a policy of blanket refusals is something that the Government has **denied**.” (pg24 of the Report)*

“They were the national force doing the Government’s bidding. That cannot be more aligned with the UK’s strategic interests. These are not people who just did a bit of translation, made a bit of money and left. They put their lives on the line, properly fighting with us, for us.”

A British former military adviser who worked with the Triples in Afghanistan in the 2000s

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School students’ path way to school. It takes approximately two hours for students to reach the local school using this path. Waras District, Bamiyan, Afghanistan (2022). Photo Credit: ©Kayhan.