

Defence Afghan Relocation and Resettlement

Withdrawal of Eligibility Policy [Yet to Relocate to the UK]

Version	Update	Chapter	Date
1.0			15.07.2026

Introduction

1. The intent of this policy guidance is to set out the threshold and standard process for which the MOD may decide, at times with support from other government departments, to withdraw eligibility from individuals who have yet to relocate to the United Kingdom (UK). It applies to individuals eligible to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and/or the Afghanistan Response Route (ARR). It outlines the process for withdrawing eligibility and references where existing policy is to be read in conjunction.
2. Due to the complex nature of the relocation pathway, issues that may impact eligibility are not always identifiable from the outset. For example, although Principal Applicants (PAs) submit the required documentation for themselves and on behalf of their family members in advance of relocation, discrepancies and inconsistencies may not be discovered until the individuals are presented in person to caseworkers in a third country. This guidance also covers steps to take in these instances.
3. Cases with circumstances not covered by this guidance may present themselves. The MOD reserves the right to withdraw eligibility from individuals who have yet to relocate to the UK wherever justified and exceptional cases outside of this guidance will be treated on a case-by-case basis.

Power to Withdraw Eligibility and Delegated Authority

4. The power to withdraw eligibility under ARAP and the ARR sits with the Secretary of State for Defence and the Defence Minister with responsibility for the Afghanistan Relocation Programme (currently the Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry (MinDRI)).
5. Previously, wherever deemed necessary, caseworkers made a recommendation to Min(DRI) (previously the Minister for the Armed Forces) to agree withdrawal of eligibility. On 13 April 2026, Min(DRI) agreed to delegate powers to a member of the Senior Civil Service (SCS).
6. Therefore, from 15 July 2026 onwards, caseworkers should make their assessment and recommendation to the relevant SCS who will decide whether

eligibility should be withdrawn. Complex cases can still be raised to Ministers when deemed necessary.

Withdrawing Eligibility

7. This policy should be read in conjunction with all other ARAP and ARR policy and caseworker guidance. This includes the DARR Fraud and Assurance Policy.
8. The MOD may withdraw eligibility of a PA where they:
 - a. provide false information and/or evidence in relation to
 - i. their eligibility and/or
 - ii. their family members' eligibility.
 - b. make false representations in relation to
 - i. their eligibility and/or
 - ii. their family members' eligibility.
 - c. do not disclose relevant information and/or evidence in relation to
 - i. their eligibility and/or
 - ii. their family members' eligibilitywhich would have otherwise made them and/or their family members ineligible to ARAP/the ARR.
 - d. no longer wish to be relocated to the UK (including where an individual has previously made this clear).
 - e. stop responding to communications for over 12 months from the date their eligibility letter is sent.
9. The MOD may withdraw eligibility of a family member:
 - a. Where the family member's PA
 - i. provides false information and/or evidence in relation to their family members' eligibility.
 - ii. makes false representations in relation to their family members' eligibility.
 - iii. does not disclose relevant information and/or evidence in relation to their family members' eligibility which would have otherwise made the family member ineligible to ARAP/the ARR.
 - iv. no longer wishes to be relocated to the UK.
 - v. stop responding to communications for over 12 months from the date the PA's eligibility letter is sent.
 - b. Where the family member
 - i. no longer wishes to be relocated to the UK.

Deceased Principals

10. Where applications are made from an alleged bereaved family member of deceased PAs, their eligibility may be withdrawn if:
 - a. The PA is not deceased as claimed.

- b. The alleged bereaved family member
 - i. provides false information and/or evidence in relation to their eligibility.
 - ii. makes false representations in relation to their eligibility.
 - iii. does not disclose relevant information and/or evidence in relation to their eligibility which would have otherwise made them ineligible to ARAP/the ARR.

False Information or Failure to Disclose Relevant information

- 11. It is the responsibility of the PA and their family members to provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate they are related as claimed (as per ARAP/ARR Caseworker Guidance).
- 12. Where evidence emerges which indicates that the PA – or their family members where the PA is deceased – has provided false information or evidence in relation to their eligibility or has not disclosed relevant information and/or evidence in relation to their and/or their family members' eligibility, it is appropriate to consider withdrawing theirs and/or their family members' eligibility. Examples of this may include, but are not limited to, forged and/or fraudulent documents (e.g. passports, birth certificates, marriage certificates, tazkiras, employment certificates and accepted identity documents) or genuine documents which have been improperly obtained or falsified (suspected falsified names or dates of birth). For further details on DARR Fraud and Assurance Policy please visit GOV.UK.

Right to Make Representations

- 13. PAs – or their family members where the PA is deceased – should be given the opportunity to provide further information and/or explanations and/or make representations in relation to a proposed decision to withdraw eligibility, and any relevant information provided must be taken into account before a final decision on whether to withdraw eligibility is reached.
- 14. In these instances, caseworkers should send out a Request for Further Information before referring the case to their team leaders. Individuals will have 14 days to respond to requests for information. Failure to respond to any request for information within this timescale, unless exceptional circumstances apply, will result in caseworkers using the evidence already available to escalate the case to their SCS for consideration.

Record Keeping

- 15. Withdrawal of eligibility may carry with it significant consequences for the PA and/or their family members. Although this may not always have an impact on a decision to withdraw eligibility, caseworkers must ensure that all risks associated with withdrawing eligibility from a PA and their family members are adequately recorded on DACS and communicated to other stakeholders.

16. Thorough case notes must be maintained at every stage so that there is a full and clear record of the basis on which the decision is reached.
17. The MOD is responsible for issuing a notification of the eligibility withdrawal and the Home Office is responsible for issuing a notification of the entry clearance refusal or cancellation. When communicating to an individual a decision to withdraw eligibility, caseworkers should clearly state the rationale for the decision.

Appealing a Decision to Withdraw Eligibility

18. A withdrawal of eligibility decision cannot be appealed, and individuals will not have the right to a review of the decision by the MOD.