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Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP,  
2 Marsham Street  
SW1P 4DF

5 April 2023

**RE: Statutory information request on Home Office accommodation of children seeking asylum**

Dear Home Secretary,

As Children's Commissioner for England and on all reserved matters, it is my statutory duty under the Children Act 2004 to promote and protect the rights of all children. This duty includes a particular responsibility towards children living away from home, which extends to children arriving in the United Kingdom seeking asylum. I am clear that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and I am committed to ensuring that every child is protected from harm.

I am writing to formally request information about the treatment of children seeking asylum in the UK. In particular, I am requesting individual-level information on all unaccompanied children aged 17 years or younger seeking asylum in the UK, who have been accommodated by the Home Office in hotel accommodation for at least one night since July 2021.

This request falls under my statutory remit to investigate and explore the lived experiences of vulnerable children, particularly those under the care and supervision of the state. This information will help us to better understand the experience of children accommodated by the Home Office and how we can best support them.

I am requesting this data under Section 2F of the Children Act 2004. Under that legislation, it is compulsory for this data to be provided. Annex 1 attached to this letter provides additional detail as to why I am requesting this data, my legal basis for requesting it and how it should be provided. I thank you in advance for your cooperation with this request.

In addition to this data request, I have some questions regarding the Illegal Migration Bill. I would like clarity on some aspects of the recently published children's factsheet which accompanies the Bill, particularly the use of force and restraint, and age assessments.<sup>1</sup> I have requested this information from your officials and have included this in the Annex 2 attached to this letter for your reference.

I look forward to hearing from you and would welcome a meeting to discuss these areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Home Office, 2023, Illegal Migration Bill: Children's Factsheet, [link](#). Accessed on 05/04/23

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Yours sincerely,



**Dame Rachel de Souza**  
**Children's Commissioner for England**

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**Dame Rachel de Souza**  
**Children's Commissioner for England**

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