



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending  
watchdog

Switchboard +44 (0)207 798 7000

Direct Line +44 (0)207 798 7264

Email [FOI@nao.org.uk](mailto:FOI@nao.org.uk)

Reference FOI-1673

Date 04 December 2023

Dear

## WINDRUSH COMPENSATION SCHEME

Thank you for your request of 19 November 2023 for information about applications to the Windrush Compensation Scheme. We have considered your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Your specific request is set out in **Annex A** for reference.

We have searched our records and can confirm that we do not hold the information you requested.

I am sorry we do not hold the information you seek on this occasion, but I hope this response is helpful. **Annex B** sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request for information under FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team



## **Annex A**

### **Request for information:**

(Your request is in italics and our response below)

*“Can you tell me if anyone who applied to the Windrush Compensation scheme has the surname Hughes and was born in British Guiana, now Guyana, or the Dutch Caribbean? Can you tell me if any of the individuals from whom Windrush scheme applicants derived their claim to British citizenship had the surname Hughes and were born in British Guiana, now Guyana, or the Dutch Caribbean? If you have any question, or there is some other archive or office I should contact, please let me know in your reply.”*

### **NAO response**

We have searched our records and can confirm that we do not any information in scope of your request.

The NAO published a report '[Investigation into the Windrush Compensation Scheme](#)' on 21 May 2021. This covered the Home Office's (the Department's) establishment and administration of the scheme and the progress it had made in implementing changes from December 2020. It sets out:

- the history and development of the compensation scheme;
- the Department's engagement activity;
- the number of compensation claims and payments; and
- the Department's administration of the scheme.

The data we received from the Home Office for this investigation was fully anonymous and contained no details allowing us to identify an individual. The name, date of birth, birth country and nationality of applicants was removed before the data was shared with us. Therefore, we do not hold any information that could answer your request.

If you have not already done so, you may wish to contact the Home Office who are the owners of this data with questions about the scheme. However, it may help to explain that information about identifiable individual applicants would be personal data about third parties. The Home Office is unlikely to disclose this information under FOIA as the exemption in Section 40(2) of FOIA (personal information) is likely to apply.

## **Annex B**

### **Statement of Policy**

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at [FOI@nao.org.uk](mailto:FOI@nao.org.uk) or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Alternatively, you can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.