



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1842

Date 25 July 2025

COST OF USING HOTELS FOR ASYLUM ACCOMMODATION

Thank you for your letter of 5 July 2025 querying the cost of using hotels to accommodate people seeking asylum. We have considered your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We have searched our records and can confirm that we do not hold the figures for all of the years you requested. However, we have provided information, where available, from previous National Audit Office reports and the Home Office's annual report and accounts, which are publicly available. Your specific request is set out in **Annex A** together with our answer.

I hope this response is helpful and you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk. 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>.

Yours sincerely,

FOI and Correspondence Officer

Annex A

Request for information on the cost of using hotels to accommodate people seeking asylum:

“The Conservatives held power from 11 May, 2010 to 5 July, 2024. I would greatly appreciate information on hotel costs during this period.”

NAO response:

We do not hold information on the cost of hotels accommodating people seeking asylum for every year between 2010 and 2024. However, we have provided information on the costs of hotel accommodation from 2022-23 to 2024-25. These costs reflect the amount paid for hotels under the Home Office's contracts used to provide accommodation and support for people seeking asylum. It is important to note that they include the cost of procuring hotel rooms and also wider costs such as the cost to transport people seeking asylum to hotels and wraparound services including meals.

In March 2024 the National Audit Office published an [Investigation into asylum accommodation](#). Figure 2 shows the number of people supported in different types of asylum accommodation, from December 2019 to December 2023. You will note the number of people staying in hotels was first recorded in December 2022. This is because before 31 December 2022, data for people accommodated while their initial asylum claim was assessed did not distinguish between those in initial accommodation and those in contingency accommodation (which would include hotels).

In July 2025 the Home Office reported in its [2024-25 Annual report and Accounts](#) that:

£2.1 billion was spent on hotels in 2024-25, at an average of £5.77 million per day, compared to £3.0 billion spent on hotels in 2023-24 at an average of £8.3 million per day (page 75).

In July 2024 the Home Office reported in its [2023-24 Annual report and Accounts](#) that:

£3 billion was spent on hotels in 2023-24, an average of £8 million per day, compared to £2.2 billion spent on hotels in 2022-23 (page 82).

The National Audit Office has also published figures on the cost of hotel accommodation for people seeking asylum. Figures differ from the Home Office's annual report and accounts because they were unaudited at the time of publication or because they cover different time periods.

In May 2025 the NAO briefing on the [Home Office's asylum accommodation and support contracts](#) reported that:

People accommodated in hotels account for 76% of the cost of the contracts (£1.3 billion out of an estimated £1.7 billion in the first seven months of 2024-25) (paragraph 1.18).^{1,2}

In March 2024 the NAO [Investigation into asylum accommodation](#) reported that:

In the 2019-20 financial year, the Home Office spent around £739 million on asylum support, but in the financial year to March 2023, this increased to £3.6 billion. This included £2.3 billion on hotels, with the remaining amount mostly being spent on grants to local authorities, other types of accommodation and other asylum support costs. In 2023-24 it is forecasting it will spend £4.7 billion on asylum support, including £3.1 billion on hotels (paragraph 1.4).³

¹ The amount spent during 2024-25 had not been finalised at the time of publication

² A correction was issued 1 July 2025 to clarify the specific time period for the cost of hotel accommodation (the first seven months of 2024-25).

³ Figures for 2023-24 were unaudited at the time of publication.