



David Simmonds CBE MP, Rt Hon John McDonnell MP, Danny Beales MP
Via e-mail

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22 July 2025

Dear David, John and Danny

Hillingdon Taxpayers Should Not Be Left to Shoulder the Burden Alone – A Call for Fair Funding

Hillingdon residents are being asked to shoulder an unfair and unsustainable financial burden, and we need your support to put it right.

At its meeting on 10 July 2025, Hillingdon Council agreed that the scale and cost of support for former asylum seekers in the borough has become untenable. We are proud of our record as a compassionate community, but national decisions are placing an overwhelming strain on local taxpayers without the necessary support from government.

Hillingdon currently hosts the highest number of asylum seekers in hotels and dispersed accommodation of any borough in London, over 4.5 times the London average. As the Home Office moves to evict more than 2,300 asylum seekers into our borough without secured accommodation or support, many are presenting to Hillingdon Council as homeless. The cost of managing this fall directly on our residents.

This is not a criticism of those seeking asylum. It is a plea for fairness. Our residents should not be left to fund national responsibilities alone.

Despite repeated warnings to government, the pressure on Hillingdon Council continues to grow. Our budget, already stretched due to historic underfunding, is being pushed to the limit.

Since 2013, Hillingdon has lost out on £48 million due to an outdated funding formula that no longer reflects our growing population. Independent modelling by London Councils confirms that Hillingdon Council is proportionately the most underfunded borough in the capital. That is before even factoring in the additional cost pressures caused by asylum support.

To protect local services and residents, we are asking Government to:

- Stop placing evicted former asylum seekers into Hillingdon without properly funded accommodation and support
- Refund Hillingdon Council for the asylum-related costs already absorbed
- Provide a bridging grant through the Exceptional Financial Support scheme to help manage pressures while the new funding formula is implemented.

We have never shied away from standing up to any government, of any colour. Whether challenging previous plans for a third runway at Heathrow or pushing back on HS2, Hillingdon Council has always spoken up for our community.

That is why I now ask for your backing to:

- Ensure full recompense for the asylum-related costs to date
- End the practice of placing a disproportionate burden on Hillingdon
- Press Government to provide bridging support
- Secure long-term, fair funding for Hillingdon Council going forward.

We remain committed to supporting those in need. But that support must be delivered in a way that is fair, properly funded and sustainable for everyone who calls Hillingdon home.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Ian Edwards

Leader of the Council

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