

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 1 in the name of Councillor Daby to be seconded by Councillor Dacres	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: October 3 2018

The Windrush scandal is a British political scandal concerning people born British subjects, who came to the United Kingdom (UK) between 1948 and 1973. They were predominately from Caribbean countries, and have become known as the Windrush Generation.

Many of the Windrush Generation were denied their British citizenship and legal rights, wrongly detained, and threatened with deportation. There are many who were wrongly deported from the UK, or denied the right to return from vacation or family bereavements by the Home Office. To date, the Home office has failed to provide the exact number of people whom this has affected.

The ramifications of those who were suddenly told that they were not British Citizens, despite being British before entrance into the UK has been devastating. They have lost their jobs, homes, pensions, and financial security. They have been denied benefits and medical care to which they were and are fully entitled to. The denial of medical care has led to deaths. Many of those arrived on these shores as invited British subjects have lost their dignity, been marginalised, felt ashamed and embarrassed, and have had the lives ripped apart. Many of those affected through the Windrush Scandal have been older vulnerable people, as well as their dependants. Furthermore, an unknown number of long-term UK residents were wrongly refused re-entry to the UK, and a larger number were threatened with immediate deportation by the Home Office.

In one month alone, the UK Government received a total of 13,000 calls to a specialist unit set up within the Department of the Home Office, in the aftermath of the extreme scale of those affected. The Home Office has since disclosed that more than 850 people now have documentation to affirm their British Citizenship following an appointment with their dedicated team. However, the total number affected at home and abroad are still unknown.

This motion pledges that Lewisham Council publicly opposes the mistreatment and criminalisation of Windrush individuals and families; and resolves:

- In continuing to actively campaign for an end to all 'hostile environment' policy measures, calls upon the Mayor of Lewisham alongside the 3 local Lewisham MPs to demand that the Government enables the Windrush Generation to acquire British citizenship at no cost, and with proactive assistance throughout the process, which is not time limited. To note that the 'hostile environment' is not restricted to the Windrush

generation, and that the campaign be extended to include post-1973 spouses and children that followed to join their pre-1973 family member.

- To proactively advertise the open consultation of the Windrush Compensation Scheme, through which victims of the Windrush Scandal will be able to claim compensation.
- To call upon the Government to fully and financially support advice agencies in their work to achieve support, advocacy and justice for all Lewisham's residents affected by the Windrush Scandal.
- To thank third sector organisations within the borough for their support and advocacy for victims of Windrush Scandal. Signposting those affected to organisations which provide support, advice and advocacy.
- To call upon the Government to conduct an independent public enquiry into this Windrush scandal.
- To review the Council's policies and procedures to ensure that those affected are supported appropriately.
- In honour and recognition of the immense contributions of those known as the Windrush Generation, who arrived in the UK between 1948 and 1973, lead Lewisham in the annual celebration of Windrush Day on 22nd June. That this day recognises the contributions from The Commonwealth Member Countries to Lewisham's rich culture and diversity.