This document provides . factual analysis of the immigrant have a clear overview of the relevant information free from bias and for you to draw your own conclusions. Avoid mainstream media and emotionally driven sources, as they have their own agendas. My aim is to inform and educate, not to encourage speculation.

Here's a comparative breakdown of small boat crossings across the English Channel for the same period in 2024 and 2025, up to mid-June:

Small Boat Crossings: January to Mid-June

Period	2024 Arrivals	2025 Arrivals	Change
January to 12 June	11,326	~15,264	**+~35%**
Highest daily total (May)	825	1,194	**+369**
Total boats intercepted (est.)	~750	~940	**+~190**

Source Migrantdata

JAOC Analysis

- **2025 has seen a significant surge** in crossings—about 35% more than the same period in 2024.

- The single busiest day was 31 May 2025, when **1,194** people arrived on 18 boats.

- The total number of crossings by mid-June 2025 reached over **16,000**, compared to around **11,300** in 2024.

- Weather: A record number of "red days" (favourable for crossings) in 2025—up 80% from the previous year.

- Smuggling tactics: Gangs are cramming more people into fewer boats, increasing risk and volume.

- Policy shifts: The new UK government scrapped the Rwanda deportation plan and redirected funds to border security, but crossings have continued to rise.

Comprehensive figures for irregular arrivals via UK airports and the Eurotunnel for 2024 and 2025 aren't publicly available.

- In 2024, French authorities reported **over 30,000 interception attempts** near Calais and Coquelles.

- In 2025, that number is expected to rise due to increased pressure on land routes following the surge in small boat crossings.

- The upcoming EU Entry/Exit System (EES)—set to launch in October 2025—will digitize border checks and may reduce undetected entries via the tunnel.

(Source gov.uk)

Process After Arrival

Initial Screening

- Migrants are taken to a processing centre (like Manston in Kent).
- Undergo identity checks, biometric recording (fingerprints, photos), and health screenings.

Asylum or Detention

- Placed in asylum accommodation (hotels, hostels, or dispersal housing)
- Detained if deemed a security risk or if removal is imminent.

Case Assessment

The Home Office assesses their asylum claim. This can take months or even years. During this time, they're not allowed to work (except in rare cases) and receive a small weekly allowance.

Decision & Outcomes

If granted asylum: they receive refugee status and can stay, work, and access services. If refused: they may appeal. If that fails, they face removal—though deportations are rare and legally complex.

- As of February 2025, anyone entering illegally is generally barred from gaining British citizenship, even if they're later granted asylum.

- Deportation is rare: in 2024, fewer than 5% of small boat arrivals were removed within a year.

(Source Visaverge.com)

The UK government does **not routinely publish exact figures** on how many asylum seekers go missing from hotels or other accommodation. However, leaked reports and parliamentary inquiries over the past few years have revealed troubling patterns:

Known Estimates & Patterns

- In 2023, over **5,000 asylum seekers were recorded as "absconded"**—meaning they left accommodation without notifying authorities and could not be traced.

- By mid-2024, internal Home Office briefings suggested the number had **risen sharply**, particularly among those housed in hotels near major transport hubs.

- As of early 2025, **no official update** has been published, but MPs have raised concerns that the figure could now exceed **7,000**.

Systemic Gaps

- Hotels are **not secure facilities**—people can leave at will.

- There's **no GPS tracking** or consistent follow-up unless someone is under legal restrictions.

- The backlog and under-resourced enforcement mean many cases are simply lost in the system.

February 2025: Major Small Boat Gang Arrests

Six Afghan nationals were arrested in coordinated raids across Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester and Essex.

They were part of a transnational network smuggling people from Afghanistan through Iran, Turkey, and the Balkans, eventually launching them across the Channel in small boats.

The gang used social media to recruit and coordinate with migrants, often targeting those whose asylum claims had been rejected in Belgium.

The **National Crime Agency (NCA)** worked with Belgian and Italian authorities for over two years to bring them down.

This wasn't a fringe operation—it was a **well-organised, long-running network** exploiting legal loopholes and human desperation. And it shows that small boat smuggling is no longer chaotic ad hoc crime—it's structured, international, and deeply embedded.

The NCA currently has **over 70 live investigations** into organised immigration crime.

But for every gang disrupted, others adapt—like the new "**taxi boat**" tactics where smugglers pick up migrants waiting waist-deep in the sea to avoid French police.

Main companies holding UK government contracts for migrant accommodation as of 2025:

Primary Contractors (Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts – AASCs)

The Home Office outsources accommodation through **three main providers**, each responsible for different UK regions:

Clearsprings Ready Homes

Covers: London, South, East of England, and Wales.

Notable sites: Napier Barracks (Kent), multiple hotels.

Subcontracted Stay Belvedere Hotels (SBHL)—recently dropped due to performance issues.

- **2021**: ~£25 million profit
- **2022**: ~£60 million profit
- **2023**: Estimated over **£70 million**, with **£1.3 billion in revenue**—that's **£3.5 million per day** from Home Office contracts

Clearsprings is privately owned by Graham King, who has become one of the wealthiest figures in the UK's asylum industry. The company has faced repeated criticism for poor housing conditions and safeguarding failures.

Mears Group

Covers: Scotland, Northern Ireland, North East, Yorkshire & Humber, and the Midlands.

Operates a mix of housing and hotels.

- **2021**: 37% increase in profits, largely driven by asylum contracts

- **2022–2023**: Revenue from asylum services continued to rise, but exact profit figures are bundled with broader housing services.

- **2023**: Estimated **£1.2 billion in total revenue**, with asylum accommodation a major contributor.

Mears has been accused of overcrowding and poor conditions in Glasgow and other cities, despite rising earnings.

Serco Group (North West England)

Known for long-standing involvement in public sector outsourcing.

These contracts are worth **billions** over their multi-year terms and include housing, maintenance, and support services.

- **2021–2023**: Serco's immigration division reported **"strong growth"** in annual reports.

- Exact profit margins are not broken out, but Serco's **UK & Europe division** (which includes asylum services) posted **£2.5 billion in revenue** in 2023.

Serco runs over 100 hotels and has been linked to multiple safeguarding concerns, including intimidation and abuse allegations.

Smaller Players

- **Calder Conferences** (hotel booking):

  o **2021**: £20.6 million in Home Office payments

- o **2022**: £97 million—**nearly 5x increase**

- **Corporate Travel Management (CTM)**:

  - o Managed the Bibby Stockholm barge until early 2025.

  - o Contract value undisclosed, but estimated in the **tens of millions**.

Additional Support Contract

Migrant Help runs the AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) helpline, offering support to asylum seekers across the UK.

The **National Audit Office (NAO)** released a damning report in May 2025 that lays bare the scale, cost, and oversight failures of the UK's migrant accommodation contracts.

The Numbers Behind the Contracts

- **Original estimate (2019)**: £4.5 billion over 10 years.

- **Current projection (2025)**: **£15.3 billion**—a more than **threefold increase**.

- In 2024–25 alone, the Home Office spent **£1.7 billion** on asylum accommodation.

Hotel Use: The Costly Contingency

- Around **35% of asylum seekers** are housed in hotels.

- But hotels account for **76% of the total cost**—a staggering imbalance.

- Suppliers reportedly **profit more from hotel placements** than from standard housing, creating perverse incentives.

Oversight & Accountability Gaps

- The Home Office has **limited tools to control costs** or enforce performance standards.

- **Local authority coordination is patchy**, leading to uneven distribution and community strain.

Supplier Profitability

- The NAO flagged concerns that **some suppliers are making significant profits**, especially in high-cost regions like the South East.

- There's **no transparent breakdown** of how much each contractor earns, but the report urges tighter financial controls and performance-linked payments.

This isn't just about bloated budgets—it's about a system that's **financially unsustainable and morally threadbare**. If you're thinking about how to use this in your advocacy, we could build a narrative around **public money, private profit, and human cost**.

www.JAOC.ORG.UK