



Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary

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President Lord Roger Roberts of Llandudno

## EXAMPLES IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS OF THE HOME OFFICE BEING FOUND TO HAVE ACTED ILLEGALLY

### EXTRACTS FROM LD4SOS NEWSLETTERS

#### January 2021

##### **Court Rulings on Right to Work and Victims of Trafficking**

In December, [the High Court ruled](#) that Home Office policy on permission to work for asylum seekers is unlawful to the extent that it doesn't make allowances for potential victims of human trafficking. This week, a further rule was announced declaring the same Home Office policy unlawful when applied to asylum seekers specifically. Free Movement have a comprehensive [blog post](#) on the case.

The Lift the Ban secretariat is seeking clarification on the implications of both these rulings and will share information in due course as more become clear.

#### December 2020

The High Court has made yet another damning judgement against the Home Office saying that they were unlawful. This case was about delays in relocating disabled asylum seekers into accommodation suitable for them and their initial provision of support. It also slammed them for failures in monitoring housing contractors' performance in securing the accommodation. It was about highly vulnerable asylum seekers who had disabilities and serious illnesses and were left homeless and without support. You can read the whole of the judgement here

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2020/3416.pdf>

#### July 2020

##### **DETENTION**

A County Court has ruled that the Home Office should pay over £100k in damages to the claimant, unlawfully detained for 410 days. The Judge found that detention caused the claimant's PTSD and awarded significant personal injury damages.

#### January 2020

##### **HOME OFFICE LAW BREAKING YET AGAIN.**

We have a government that breaks the law, and doesn't care. How long can this go on? The Government's £1,000 fee for registering children as British citizens has been struck down as unlawful by the High Court, in what has been described as a "landmark ruling." A government which ignores legal rulings is the beginning of the end of our democracy.

#### August 2019

##### **DETENTION CENTRE ABUSE**

It is very good news indeed that the High Court has ruled that the enquiry into immigration detention centre abuse has to be in public. This is a first, but does not in itself resolve the issues. Whilst conditions must be good and people be treated with humanity – options in the community should replace detention, so that it is used as an absolute last resort and for the minimum of time.

## **April 2019**

### **A HOME OFFICE FIT FOR PURPOSE?**

As well as many well researched reports revealing Home Office shortcomings in how it deals with those seeking sanctuary, there are as many as THREE court cases reported in this newsletter where the Home Office has been found to be dealing with a situation wrongly by the High Court. Surely this is a strong message that the Home Office is not fit for purpose. It needs radical reform as outlined in Lib Dem policy, and a swift end to the Hostile Environment.

### **TORTURE CLAIMS**

Freedom From Torture, Helen Bamber Foundation and Medical Justice have pursued the Home Office through the courts to help victims of torture with claims for asylum. The Home Office should be ashamed at yet again having to be ordered by a court to do what is right and humane.

### **VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY**

Yet again it takes a High Court judge to tell our Home Office they are acting illegally, as reported here. Anyone with humanity would know it takes more than 45 days to stop needing support after being rescued from slavery.

### **HIGH COURT SUSPENDS HOME OFFICE DEPORTATION POLICY**

Some good news on a court case here as **the** High Court delivered the latest in a series of blows to the Government's 'hostile environment' immigration policy. Medical Justice has been granted an interim injunction, which will prevent the Home Office from removing or deporting people from the country without notice.

Yet again it takes a High Court judge to tell our Home Office they are acting illegally, as reported here. Anyone with humanity would know it takes more than 45 days to stop needing support after being rescued from slavery.

**All this is yet more evidence that the Home Office is not fit for purpose. The Liberal Democrats will strip it of its powers over immigration and asylum and set up a new, arms-length body to process applications fairly and lawfully.**

More information on how Liberal Democrats would radically change how decisions are made and transfer functions from Home Office is [here](#)