

# Parliamentary Briefing: Windrush Compensation Scheme

## December 2024

### Summary

The Windrush Compensation Scheme was launched in 2019 to provide compensation to victims of the Windrush scandal, many of whom lost access to housing, healthcare, employment, social security and bank accounts. Others were wrongly detained or forcibly removed from the UK. The impact on those affected has been enormous and traumatic, with long term consequences for their mental and physical health and financial security.

We welcome the Government's commitment to compensating victims of the scandal, but we believe the current compensation scheme is too slow, too difficult to access, and is unfair. Applicants are required to jump over too many hurdles, compensation amounts are too low, and there are significant gaps in what victims can claim for. As a result, older people and their families continue to be affected by the long-term impact of the Windrush scandal, and many have spoken out about the impact on their mental and physical health and financial security. Time is moving on for these older people, who have often already waited years for justice and the compensation that is due to them. At least 53 victims of the scandal have died while waiting for their claims to be processed.

### Key recommendations

We have a number of key recommendations which we believe the Government should act on to improve the compensation scheme and do right by older people affected by the scandal:

- The compensation scheme should account for losses to private pensions.
- Applications and appeals should be processed more quickly.
- More support is needed for those applying for compensation.
- There should be better routes to challenge and appeal compensation scheme decisions.
- Better training for caseworkers is needed.
- The burden of proof for claimants should be reduced.
- Implement all the recommendations set out by the 2020 Wendy Williams review.