



Out of credit? Subscribe to **JustHolla** for Emergency Mobile Credit. Visit justholla.co.uk to find out more.



Julia Hartley-Brewer
13:00-16:00



- HOME
- RADIO
- NEWS
- TRAFFIC & TRAVEL
- LBC PODCASTS
- BEST OF LBC
- PHOTOS
- WIN
- CONTACT

Home > News > Vouchers For Officials Who Block Asylum Cases

Vouchers For Officials Who Block Asylum Cases

Wednesday, 15th January 2014 09:00

Tweet 1

Recommend 0

Gift vouchers, holiday days and cash bonuses are being



offered to Home Office staff who stop failed asylum seekers staying in Britain.

High street shopping vouchers worth up to £50 are dished out to immigration officers who win appeals against Government decisions that the asylum seekers should leave the country.

The incentives are offered as part of a Home Office reward scheme under which all the Whitehall department's staff are able to win the perks.

Critics say the scheme opens the system up to abuse with officers cherry-picking the cases they know are likely to guarantee success and dropping the more difficult ones.

Immigration officers have a target of winning 70% of the tribunal cases they fight.

The Home Office said the incentives were designed to "recognise positive performance over a short period of time", such as when officers exceed monthly casework targets.

The revelations came following requests made under Freedom of Information laws by The Guardian newspaper.

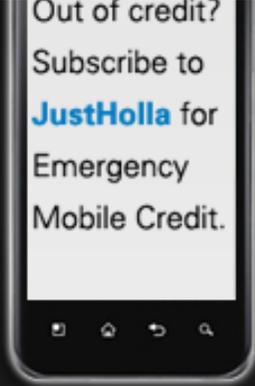
It showed that 11 vouchers for £25 have been given out since July 2012 to presenting officers in asylum cases.

Duncan Lewis, a firm of immigration solicitors, said it was likely that cases with strong grounds for appeal would be withdrawn by the Home Office because officials feared they would lose and miss their targets.



JustHolla

Out of credit?
Subscribe to **JustHolla** for
Emergency Mobile Credit.
Visit justholla.co.uk to find out more.



Out of credit?
Subscribe to
JustHolla for
Emergency
Mobile Credit.

Visit
justholla.co.uk
to find out
more.

In this Section

- Latest Headlines
- London News
- London Close Up
- Sports News
- Entertainment News
- Business News
- Weird News
- Traffic and Travel
- Cycling In London
- Olympics 2012
- London Mayoral Election
- The News Explained
- London Riots
- 7/7 London Attacks
- Election 2010
- Weather

The firm told The Guardian it was considering a legal challenge the voucher scheme suggested a "clear incentive to bad practice".

Sarah Teather, a Liberal Democrat MP and former minister, told the newspaper the scheme completely undermined any sense that asylum seekers would receive a fair hearing.

She said: "If the Home Office are really giving out shopping vouchers for officers who help ensure asylum seekers lose their appeals that is a new low."

A Home Office spokesman said: "It is not true that individual officers prioritise cases that are most likely to succeed and any decision to withdraw a case has to be approved at a more senior level.

"The success of our officers in upholding asylum decisions is only one of a range of criteria we use to monitor staff performance.

"All our staff are expected to meet appropriate professional standards."

Shadow immigration minister David Hanson said: "It's unacceptable that the Government is using gimmicks and playing with people's lives to mask the incompetence of the Home Office.

"Theresa May needs to get a grip on her department, clear the backlogs and ensure the right decisions are made first time."

:: Watch Sky News live on television, on Sky channel 501, Virgin Media channel 602, Freeview channel 82 and Freesat channel 202.

- **Related Stories**

See Also

[Sigmund Freud: Burglar Tries To Steal Ashes](#)

[Tax Fugitive Michael Voudouri Held In Cyprus](#)

[Lord Rennard Escapes Harassment Disciplinary](#)

[Florida: Man 'Hurls Son From Motel Balcony'](#)

[Malcolm Parker: Burglar On Run From Prison](#)

- **Benefits Asylum Seekers Have TVs And iPads**



(c) Sky News 2014

You Are Here: [Home](#) > [News](#) > **Vouchers For Officials Who Block Asylum Cases**

[Back To Top](#) ▲

[Listen Live](#) | [About LBC](#) | [Company Details](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Policy](#) | [Jobs at LBC](#) | [Public File](#) | [Terms](#)

We use cookies on our site. By continuing to browse you are agreeing to our use of these cookies.

[View More Information](#)

[Close](#) ✕