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Vouchers For Officials Who Block Asylum Cases

The reward scheme has been set up to encourage Home Office staff to get failed asylum seekers removed from the UK.

10:40am UK, Wednesday 15 January 2014



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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



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Duncan Lewis, a firm of immigration solicitors, said it was likely that cases with strong grounds for appeal would be withdrawn by the Home Office because officials feared they would lose and miss their targets.

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."



Home Secretary Theresa May told to 'get a grip' on her department





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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."

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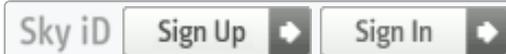
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Choppac1

1:53 PM on 15/1/2014

I went in to my local surgery wearing a joke Border Agency t shirt back in the summer. The place emptied. All you need to do is post an agency man at all the bank machines and benefits office and the illegals will come to them, It's not rocket science, they either need money or the need benefits so be there and sweep them up!!

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KATH H

1:38 PM on 15/1/2014

If staff employed by the Home Office are not capable of doing their job then it is a boot up the backside they want not bloody shopping vouchers.

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Akira Kain

12:48 PM on 15/1/2014

50 new home office jobs for the port of Dover, thought you know what i might apply for that...

then i remembered that Theresa May would be my boss and i thought better of it, i wouldnt follow her into water let alone in a professional aspect... id rather sweep streets than be in the same work force as that waste of space

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Tony James

12:40 PM on 15/1/2014

What's new?

They have been doing this with ATOS when they took over.

Corruption and bribery at its finest using taxpayers money to do it.
The Conservatives think they are bullet proof now.
They certainly don't represent the word Conservative.

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inspiral1

11:49 AM on 15/1/2014

Gift vouchers for Home Office staff that are failing to do the job they are paid to do. Bonus's for bank employees working for banks that failed and had to be bailed out by the public purse...Anyone else see a picture forming here...
Don't quite do your job and be rewarded for it.

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Axeman

11:49 AM on 15/1/2014

I hope this scheme works so as to shut all the whingeing PC lefties up. Also, if an asylum seeker pitches up in UK from another European country they should be immediately returned to that country. No questions. It is the law! The carrier who brought them in should be forced to pay the return costs and a hefty fine as well.

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Vespasian

11:43 AM on 15/1/2014

I'm currently looking for a permanent position. Where do I sign-up? Maybe this is the type of job you need to be British to do it properly.

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Trueblue

11:38 AM on 15/1/2014

High street shopping vouchers and days off wow.

Please employ me for a year, then I could have loads of days off so I had the time to spend all my shopping vouchers.

I'm not being mercenary, helping the country out is foremost in my mind, honest.

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Steffb

11:29 AM on 15/1/2014

If these staff need a "rewards scheme" to do their (probably well paid job) then time to employ new staff.

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Tom White

11:28 AM on 15/1/2014

Do whatever is necessary just get them out, full stop!

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Albertuk

11:20 AM on 15/1/2014

No gift vouchers just a plane ticket on a Ryanair flight (one way probably about £6.00) back to where they came from is all that's required .

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edl4theuk

11:12 AM on 15/1/2014

if I worked for the home office I wouldn't need to worry about xmas this year with all my gift vouchers

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maxisdad

11:03 AM on 15/1/2014

Eleven £25 vouchers in 18 months is hardly newsworthy, but we know Sky is more interested in trying to manufacture stories than in reporting real stories. I get most of the real news from a mainland European newspaper website which my wife can read.

Every story headlined by The Guardian is by definition politically twisted.

**JUSTHUMAN**

10:39 AM on 15/1/2014

Next they will be reintroducing Green Shield Stamps for white collar workers as an incentive to do the job they are well paid to do in the first place. You couldn't make it up, it just shows this government hasn't a clue what to do, their only purpose for creating this coalition was to take advantage of the situation to build their own stature in politics, their inept performance is so unprofessional and immature you could well believe that the performance was a TV sitcom only for the fact that these people are in place to run our lives and our well being depend on their integrity and professionalism which is far from visible, their decisions deflect life or death for some.

**builderjon**

10:22 AM on 15/1/2014

"Gift Vouchers For Removing Asylum Seekers"

This beggars belief. I cannot believe this. Are we seriously being told that 'gift vouchers' are to be offered to get professional home office civil servants to just do their job?

Why are failed asylum seekers and their dependants not deported there and then? What are the police doing, if they are not enforcing court decisions that failed asylum seekers are not immediately removed?

What in hell is going on here?

**David J Robinson**

5:58 AM on 15/1/2014

Forget gifts for doing their job, once they have been told they are to be deported, it should be escorted in secure transport, then into a secured unit and treated like they are in prison ie no rights, the air force has enough planes to take / escort these people back to their native country job done, no more freedom once caught,

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Tony Read

5:57 AM on 15/1/2014

£50 in vouchers???? Make it £100 and get rid of two!!

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Cynic6

5:21 AM on 15/1/2014

Got several better ideas. Firstly, stop letting them in to get into the appeals system. If someone fetches up without a clear right to come in, don't let them. Secondly, deport all current cases immediately and let them appeal from their own country. Thirdly, if someone makes a mistake and allows someone in who shouldn't be allowed then sack them. Fourthly, instigate better border controls so that illegals can't sneak in clinging to a flipping lorry, for God's sake.

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Les Cooper

4:28 AM on 15/1/2014

Give me strength! They are paid to do a job of work, but have to be bribed to function properly.

Notice 'Human Rights' in the guise of immigration solicitors are quick to jump on the bandwagon.

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yeahright

4:25 AM on 15/1/2014

The money it would cost the country if these people did stay in the country would be a lot more than a shopping voucher, and it isn't much considering what people in the banking sector are awarded in a bonus, and why shouldn't people get the odd perk at work for a job well done, some of you are just miserable.

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Manco



4:02 AM on 15/1/2014

Why not just get the home office and immigration agencies to do there job properly and if someone is here illegally then they should be kicked out. I don't get bonuses for doing the job that I get paid for why should they.If there not doing their jobs then get someone in who will.

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Gj73

3:45 AM on 15/1/2014

popsy - i like the comment :)

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popsy

3:15 AM on 15/1/2014

Sounds like a super market offer of "Get rid of one and get one free". Another hair brained Tory scam.

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abstainer

2:55 AM on 15/1/2014

Get real.Sack those who allowed them to enter the UK in the first place.

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fedupwithbrown

2:54 AM on 15/1/2014

vouchers! bonuses! what is it with this government .
forget all that i'll do it for free where do I sign up

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