

REPORTING TO IMMIGRATION

What is reporting?

If a migrant in the UK is found to be living without leave to remain, such as after an **immigration raid** or contact with the **police**—their **details, fingerprints, and photograph** are taken and recorded by the **Home Office**. This process is **different from many other European countries**.

After that, two things might happen:

- They may be **detained** in an immigration removal centre if the Home Office believes they can be returned to their home country soon.
- Or they may be **released on immigration bail** (formerly called "temporary admission") with certain conditions they must follow.

These conditions can include:

- No permission to work
- No permission to study
- A regular requirement to **report to the Home Office**— this is what is called **“reporting”**

Reporting is used by immigration to keep track of people present in the UK without leave to remain. The aim is to provide the Home Office with control over migrants and to allow them to monitor individuals. Ultimately, this contributes to the aim of creating a **Hostile Environment**. Reporting increases the risk of **detention** without warning, creating fear and uncertainty.

A requirement to report with the details of the requirement (and any other conditions to which the person is subject) is set out in a **Bail 201 document** - this has a small photo of the person in the top righthand corner of the document – see annexed example. Always read your Bail 201 carefully.

Who has to report?

Mainly:

- Asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers
- People who are in the UK without leave to remain

A person with a reporting requirement may:

- ◆ Be asked to **report in person** to one of 13 Reporting Centres across the UK, e.g., Croydon. The frequency of in person reporting can vary eg. two visits a week, weekly, monthly, or less commonly every 6 months. You will receive a text or email when you have an appointment – You will need to show this on arrival at the reporting centre. You will also need to bring any paperwork (Bail 201)
- ◆ Be asked to **report by phone** - introduced during Covid.

Failure to Report:

Failure to **report** with no explanation (ideally in advance), will be a **breach** of conditions. This would mean:

1. Being listed as an absconder which may make it harder to get bail if detained in the future
2. The risk of enforcement action – An enforcement visit to the last known address.

3. Harsher bail conditions
4. Asylum claim is treated as withdrawn.
5. You may lose access to support (asylum support)

What to do if you miss a session

- Contact the reporting centre as soon as possible and include your: name, date of birth, Home Office reference, mobile phone number. The contact details are on the Bail 201.
- Explaining the reason for your absence: illness, travel disruption, doctor or other specialist appointment – provide any evidence that is available such as doctor's notes, travel tickets and **keep a copy!**

Changing your reporting conditions (rules)

- You may be eligible to vary your reporting conditions if you have physical or mental health difficulties, caring responsibilities or other barriers that prevent you from being able to attend like financial difficulties that make it difficult to get to the reporting centre).
- You will need evidence to support a request to vary, such as a GP Letter, Care Worker letter, proof of hardship or vulnerability.
- Requests to vary can include changes to **remote reporting** (via phone or online check-in), **less frequent** reporting (e.g. weekly to monthly), or a **temporary exemption**.
- **Template Request to Vary conditions:** <https://www.migrantsorganise.org/updated-guidance-and-flyers-to-challenge-reporting-conditions/>

Payment of Travel Expenses:

The Home Office may pay travel expenses when:

1. The individual is destitute or cannot afford to travel; AND
2. It is essential that they report in person; AND
3. No suitable alternative arrangements are possible (like phone or digital reporting).

Support Organisations

- **Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID)** – helps with detention and reporting advice.
<https://www.biduk.org/>
- **JCWI** - Freephone legal advice helpline for undocumented migrants.
Call 0800 160 1004, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 12pm. The helpline is confidential, and the advice is free.
- **Migrant Help** – general immigration support
<https://www.migranthelpuk.org/>
- **Right To Remain** – Advice and Toolkits
<https://righttoremain.org.uk/>
- **Asylum Welcome** – casework, advocacy, legal support.
<https://www.asylum-welcome.org/>