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22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008

Ref: **UASC 08/09/01**

ASYLUM SEEKERS SUPPORT GRANT 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 MARCH 2009

• **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)**

1. Enclosed with this letter are the Grant Instructions in respect of the UASC grant for 2008/09. This instruction deals solely with the UASC Grant. You should ensure that the contents of this letter are brought to the attention of the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Finance.
2. The format of the grant instructions and the requirements remain similar to last year.
3. Grant will be paid in respect of relevant expenditure lawfully incurred by a local authority in accordance with the following national **daily** rates:

| Category:     | £ daily |
|---------------|---------|
| UASC Under 16 | £108.18 |
| UASC 16/17    | £48.45  |

Local authorities must ensure that claims in respect of relevant expenditure under this grant scheme are strictly in accordance with these instructions. **Local authorities must maintain proper financial records of all relevant expenditure, which must be made available for audit by Home Office officials and the NAO.**

Where Special Circumstances were granted in a previous year, those local authorities will be advised of their rates in a separate letter.

The UK Border Agency reserves the right to validate claims before making payment and authorities are advised to ensure that access to files is made available if required. The UKBA reserves the right to commission an independent audit on your expenditure at any time.

4. You are reminded that if an authority fails to comply with any of the conditions set out in this letter, or attachments to the letter, the Secretary of State may require the immediate repayment of the whole or any part of the grant monies paid to that authority, as may be determined by the Secretary of State and notified in writing to the authority.

5. Local authorities should regard these instructions as a basic framework and are advised that during the year the UK Border Agency might extend the areas covered by the grant. All monthly returns should be made through the CBP portal until further instruction. The NRUC pilot is still ongoing, notifications and further information will be given at a later date. Notification of amendments will be to the same distribution list as the original instructions and will be numbered UASC 08/09/02 etc. and placed on the UKBA website under the following link: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithasylumseekers/localauthoritygrants>

6. If you have any queries about the content of this letter please do not hesitate to contact the Local Authority Grants Team [UASCLAGrants@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:UASCLAGrants@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

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