

Dear Chief Executive,

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Grant :- 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

1. Enclosed with this letter are the Grant Instructions in respect of the UASC grant for 2009/10. These instructions deal **solely** with the UASC Grant. Separate instructions regarding Leaving Care will be issued. 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. The Excel annexes will be sent to your relevant staff electronically.
2. The format of the grant instructions and the requirements for the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 are **different** from those issued in previous years. This year grant payments will be calculated in 2 parts – from **1 April to 30 September** the arrangements will be similar to those in previous years but from **1 October to 31 March** a different regime involving a ceiling on indirect costs will apply. You should also be aware that the ceiling will be lowered in 2011 and 2012.

1 April to 30 September 2009

3. The UASC grant will be paid in respect of relevant expenditure necessarily and legitimately incurred by a local authority.
4. Reimbursement for the period, 1 April to 30 September 2009, will be at the daily level agreed for FY2008/9 **or** the Local Authorities actual costs involved in looking after UASC – **whichever is the lower**. If you were previously in receipt of special circumstance payments we will discuss with you any additional costs that you have incurred.
5. The following maximum national **daily** rates will apply (there has been **no** increase for inflation for the period from 2008/9):

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

6. Any indirect costs included in the claims for reimbursement for this period should reflect volume changes moderated in accordance with the agreement made between UKBA and LGA/London Councils in 2008.

1 October 2009 to 31 March 2010

7. For the period 1 October 2009 to 31 March 2010, each Local Authority will be able to claim 100% of their actual **direct** costs, at a daily rate level which is **no higher** than those claimed in 2008/9.

8. LAs will be able to claim indirect costs up to the following rates:- **£35** per child/young person per day for UASC aged under 16 and **£30** per day for those aged 16 and 17. Indirect costs should be claimed at the ceiling figure, the previously moderated figure or the actual costs – whichever is the **lower**.

General

8. 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 UKBA officials and the NAO.**

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

10. 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.

11. Local authorities should regard these instructions as a basic framework and are advised that during the year the UKBA might extend the areas covered by the grant. All monthly returns should be made through the CBP portal until further instruction.

12. 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 or my colleague Jerry Harland in the UASC Team on 0208-604-1628 or by e mail on jerry.harland2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



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