



Home Office

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DECS Reference: MPAM/1514142/26
Your Reference: BRA/ADS/140

22 June 2026

Dear Bell,

Thank you for your letter of 22 May 2026 to the Home Secretary further to my answers to your Parliamentary Questions 123761 – 123768 concerning the Asylum Case Summarisation (ACS) and Asylum Policy Search (APS) tools. I am replying as the Minister for Border Security & Asylum.

I am writing further to the answers to your Parliamentary Questions. For ease, I will respond to each of the points you have raised in turn under the headers below:

Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs)

The ACS DPIA was completed for the current model on 11 August 2025 and the APS DPIA was completed for the current model on 2 April 2025. This was before each tools' full operational deployment, and as such both DPIAs are currently under review. It has not yet been confirmed whether the updated DPIAs will be published.

Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs)

The EIA for the ACS was completed on 6 January 2026 and for the APS on 30 May 2024. This was ahead of full operational deployment; the APS EIA was reviewed and updated on 11 March 2025 and the EIA for the ACS is currently being reviewed. An updated EIA for both ACS and APS is intended to be published in due course, now that both tools are operational.

Standard Operating Procedures and Caseworker Guidance

All caseworkers were given comprehensive training on the use of APS and ACS before the tools were introduced. There is a comprehensive suite of product specific training materials and guidance which are internal documents. As these are not in the public domain, they would need to be fully reviewed and redacted to be safely shared.

Oversight and Audit

Both the ACS and APS underwent user acceptance testing and evaluation was conducted following pilots of both tools. All questions asked of the tools have and will continue to be logged and are auditable. Subject Matter Expert (SME) testing continues after the introduction of the APS, in conjunction with the Country Policy & Information Team.

Following introduction of the ACS, the Home Office's Analysis and Insight team plan to conduct further follow up evaluations in due course.

The Home Office does not plan for any independent audit at this stage as both tools are still in early deployment and iteration.

The 'Human-in-the-Loop' Principle

All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. The Home Office guidance for considering asylum claims is available on GOV.UK at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/considering-asylum-claims-and-assessing-credibility-instruction/assessing-credibility-and-refugee-status-in-asylum-claims-lodged-on-or-after-28-june-2022-accessible.

Summaries produced by the ACS tool are only one document a decision maker must read before deciding a claim. To be clear, the asylum case summary does not replace any part of the asylum decision-making process. The tool produces a summary of the Asylum Interview Record, allowing decision-makers to familiarise themselves with the claim and identify which areas of asylum and country policy information they need to read, to make a fully informed decision on a case. This is where the Home Office has been able to realise time saving efficiencies, and as stated in the evaluation, not to the detriment of quality of decision-making.

The AI Evaluation, published on 29 April 2025, states in regard to the ACS: "Technical specialists reviewed all summaries for accuracy prior to use in the pilot. A small proportion of summaries produced (9%) were deemed to be inaccurate or had missing information and were therefore removed from the pilot and these cases progressed in the business-as usual way". This was during the pilot stage of the ACS project. The evaluation allowed the Home Office to identify these issues and work with developers to make improvements. SMEs continue to dip sample ACS output on a weekly basis. The Home Office has a dedicated inbox where staff can raise any issues with the tool and/or summaries produced.

Decision-makers must continue to read all documents related to the claim. This is the case for every asylum decision considered. Existing quality control processes are followed alongside data capture, development and two-way feedback mechanisms. In addition to SME testing, monthly quality assurance of asylum interviews and decisions is carried out.

Both tools contain a disclaimer highlighting the need for review of AI generated outputs. However, both the ACS and APS tools have been structured in a way that they cannot be used in isolation. As part of the quality assurance framework, one of the criteria covers the need for decision-makers to read all documents related to the claim. If a decision-maker has not read all documents, this will be highlighted as part of the quality assurance feedback, and they will have to read the document missed and consider the decision again.

The UK AI Playbook and ATRS Registration

The development of the tools predated the Algorithmic Transparency Recording Standard Repository and the UK AI playbook; however, steps are being taken to do this retrospectively.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alex Norris MP
Minister for Border Security and Asylum