

# Together at last

---

**Report appendices**



This project is part funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Making management of migration flows more efficient across the European Union.

**Read the full  
report here**

## Appendix 1 – Family Reunion Integration Service (FRIS): background and design

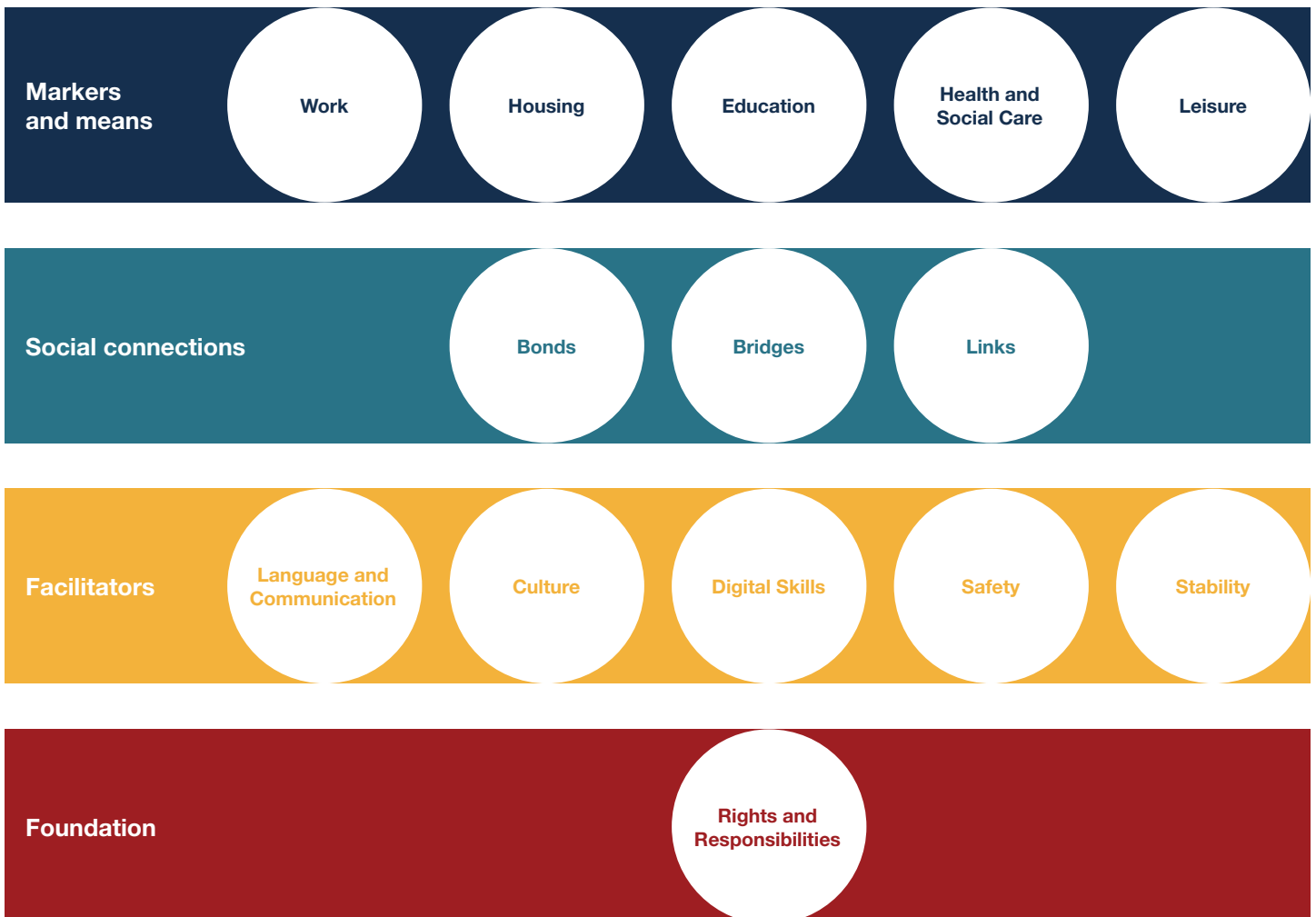
### 1. Home Office Indicators of Integration<sup>1</sup>

The Home Office defines integration as:

- **Multi-dimensional** – depending on multiple factors encompassing access to resources and opportunities as well as social mixing.
- **Multi-directional** – involving adjustments by everyone in society.
- Dependant on everyone **taking responsibility** for their own contribution (newcomers, host communities and government at all levels).

- **Context specific** and needs to be understood and planned in relation to its particular context and within a bespoke timeframe.

The diagram below sets out the 14 domains that the Home Office's integration framework is centred around. These domains coexist and impact each other, they do not offer a linear process of integration.



<sup>1</sup> Ndofor-Tah, C., Strang, A., Phillimore, J., Morrice, L., Michael, L., Wood, P., & Simmons, J. (2019). 'Home Office Indicators of Integration Framework 2019'. 3rd edition. Retrieved from: [assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/835573/home-office-indicators-of-integration-framework-2019-horr109.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835573/home-office-indicators-of-integration-framework-2019-horr109.pdf)

## 2. FRIS design

### Integration lenses

The aim of the three integration lenses was to offer additional social activities based around strengthening a particular type of social connection. Areas and activities were matched based on external data such as the number of families arriving in that area, as different arrival patterns could impact the success of the different activities.

- **Rebuilding family bonds** (Birmingham and Glasgow). This integration lens aimed to rebuild and strengthen family bonds that may have suffered from periods of separation and role changes once in the UK. Refugee sponsors were provided with access to a peer-support hub supported by a psychosocial practitioner prior to their family's arrival. The peer-support hub provided a space for refugee sponsors to come together, build their social networks and navigate any complex feelings before their families arrived. In partnership with Barnardo's, arriving families were also supported with child focussed casework as well as a family groupwork programme. The psychosocial practitioners were also able to provide individual sessions for refugee sponsors or the whole family after arrival, as well as supporting staff who were working directly with the families.<sup>2</sup>
- **Building community bonds** (Leeds, Sheffield, Cardiff). This lens aimed to strengthen the family peer bonds. Reunited refugee families were provided with integration support through a Peer Buddy scheme and a Peer Education programme. The Peer Buddy scheme supported newly arrived refugees to integrate through providing befriending and orientation support, language sharing and intercultural mediation. The Peer Education programme was a life-skills education programme, coproduced and facilitated by Peer Educators (who have lived experience of being a refugee). It involved sessions on cultural orientation, rights and responsibilities in the UK and had an English language learning/sharing element.

- **Building bridges with host community** (Belfast, Leicester, Plymouth). This lens aimed to strengthen connections within reunited refugee families new communities. Reunited refugee families were provided with integration support through a Host Buddy scheme and language holidays with host community members. The project also included funding for grassroots community organisations delivering activities for reunited families.

### The roles of FRIS partners

The **British Red Cross** provided newly reunited refugee families with individual and family casework support for up to three months as well as integration activities.

- **Core casework** (all areas) formed the basis of the service and supported families to get their basic needs met such as housing, welfare benefits, healthcare and education. In addition, caseworkers signposted and referred families to other services as appropriate (this included community-based English for Speakers of Other Languages classes, social services, legal services etc).

**Barnardo's** worked with families involved in the *'rebuilding family bonds'* integration lens (Glasgow and Birmingham). This involved:

- **Initial joint assessments** between Barnardo's and the Red Cross exploring issues and needs from both child and family perspectives. Barnardo's assessed the social, psychological and integration needs of the children in the family in relation to separation and reunion. They worked with children developing a specific plan for them to integrate, considering them as individuals with their own complex needs and not only as dependants of their parents or guardians. They provided follow up **casework sessions**.
- **Family groupwork programme** for families with complex needs. Complex needs were identified during the families' initial assessments using a RAG rating model. The programme included child-focussed sessions, parenting sessions and family integration sessions and activities.

<sup>2</sup> In 2021, psychosocial support was extended to support staff and volunteers in all areas.

Queen Margaret University provided a research component to FRIS which supported practice while gaining an in-depth understanding of how reunited refugee family members develop social connections. Their work involved:

- **Researching the role of social connections in refugee integration**, using data collected during the project.
- **Primary research to develop a national framework** for assessing refugee integration informed by project data on bonds, bridges and links.
- **Development and roll out of a Social Connections Mapping Tool** (for data collection and supporting service delivery).

The findings of QMU's research can be found in the report *Pathways and Potentialities: the role of social connections in the integration of reunited refugee families*.<sup>3</sup>

### 3. British Red Cross family reunion services

The British Red Cross has two additional family reunion services which sit alongside FRIS.

#### Family Reunion Support Project (FRSP)

FRSP provides information and legal advice to refugees in the UK who want to make a refugee family reunion visa application in order to reunite with their immediate family members in the UK. The FRSP service operates in certain areas of the UK – London, Liverpool, Manchester and Plymouth – and through the National Enquiry Service, an advice line individuals can call for help and support.

FRSP criteria

1. **Geographical location:** FRSP caseworkers generally work within their geographical remit, with some exceptions.
2. **Likelihood of success under Part 11 or Paragraph 319x of the Immigration Rules:** those with refugee status or humanitarian protection can sponsor their spouse / partner and / or minor biological, or formally adopted, children through standard refugee family reunion rules. The FRSP caseworkers will look at the

individual case and determine the likelihood of its success, based on UK law, evidence provided or both. Decisions as to whether a case can be accepted by the FRSP service are taken on a case-by-case basis.

3. **Capacity:** depending on demand, the FRSP team may not be able to take on every case. In certain situations, the Red Cross family reunion teams can signpost enquiries to other organisations who may be able to support.

#### Family Reunion Travel Assistance (FRTA)

FRTA operates across the UK, aiming to help as many families as possible with the costs of travelling to the UK. The service depends on local capacity and budgeting restrictions. Sponsors who wish to use the FRTA service must satisfy the below criteria.

FRTA criteria

1. The FRTA service is for refugees in the UK who have already obtained family reunion visas for their family to enter the UK  
*and*
2. Meet one of the following criteria:
  - a. have three or more family members abroad
  - b. are sponsoring an unaccompanied minor
  - c. have applied for the visas through one of the pre-visa FRSP projects
  - d. have a family member with a medical need that would mean it would be impossible to board a flight without extra assistance or they would face other significant safety concerns in country. The central FRTA team may require a doctor's note, as well as input from an IOM doctor to confirm medical needs.  
*and*
3. are in receipt of welfare benefits. If not in receipt of welfare benefits the FRTA team will consider applicants who earn less than the National Living Wage before tax.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the FRTA team also supported families with legal travel requirements such as completing passenger locator forms (PLF), booking Covid-19 PCR tests and, where necessary, organising hotel quarantine.

<sup>3</sup> Balliot, H., Kerlaff, L., Dakessian, A., & Strang, A. (2021). 'Pathways and Potentialities: the role of social connections in the integration of reunited refugee families.' Retrieved from: [qmu.ac.uk/media/10689/pathways-report-final-with-exec-summary-final.pdf](https://qmu.ac.uk/media/10689/pathways-report-final-with-exec-summary-final.pdf)

## Appendix 2 – Data on families supported by FRIS

### Gender

#### a. Individuals supported

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	1,988	50
Female	2,006	50
<i>Total</i>	3,994	

#### b. Sponsors

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	928	79
Female	245	21
<i>Total</i>	1,173	

#### c. Arriving spouses

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	145	16
Female	780	84
<i>Total</i>	925	

### Breakdown of families by sponsor / applicant

Spouse / applicant	Number	Percentage
Sponsors	1,173	29
Applicant – spouse	925	23
Applicant – child	1,782	45
Applicant – adult (not spouse)	114	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,994</i>	

### Family composition

- 269 families or 23% were couple only families.
- 93 families or 8% were adult only (non-spouse / partner such as adult child or sibling).<sup>4</sup>
- 811 families or 69% arrived with children. The breakdown of number of children per family is set out in the table below.

Number of children per arriving family	Number of families	Percentage
1	287	35.4
2	283	34.9
3	125	15.4
4	55	6.8
5	41	5.1
6	10	1.2
7	6	0.7
8	2	0.2
9	1	0.1
10	1	0.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>811</i>	

<sup>4</sup> Where a non-spouse adult joins the sponsor in the UK, this is an outside of the rules application and is usually for an adult child or sibling.

## Age of arriving family members

### a. Arriving children

Quarter counted under	0-4 years old	5-11 years old	12-17 years old	18-19 years old
Q2 <sup>5</sup>	27	63	62	8
Q3	34	65	39	10
Q4	30	84	41	11
Q5	38	83	58	7
Q6	41	97	43	5
Q7	13	35	22	0
Q8	9	34	16	4
Q9	26	54	54	8
Q10	12	76	52	5
Q11	30	75	61	9
Q12	32	97	76	7
Q13 <sup>6</sup>	17	52	54	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>309</i>	<i>815</i>	<i>578</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Percentage</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>4</i>

### b. Arriving adults

Quarter counted under	20-29 years old	30-39 years old	40-49 years old	50-59 years old	60+
Q2	65	49	22	6	4
Q3	45	36	20	5	2
Q4	45	48	24	5	0
Q5	45	43	24	3	2
Q6	29	47	21	4	0
Q7	10	18	11	2	3
Q8	8	10	6	0	0
Q9	24	19	9	5	2
Q10	21	26	20	3	1
Q11	27	30	16	3	2
Q12	20	44	16	4	1
Q13	23	41	17	3	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>362</i>	<i>411</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Percentage</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>

<sup>5</sup> Q1 refers to Oct-Dec 2018, before FRIS was operational and so is not included here.

<sup>6</sup> Q13 figures are up to and including 1 November 2021.

### Five most common countries of origin

Country of origin	Number of families	Percentage
Iran	296	25
Sudan	255	22
Eritrea	216	18
Syria	102	9
Ethiopia	35	3
Other (41 nationalities)	269	23
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,173</i>	

### English levels of families

Fifty-one per cent of refugee sponsors and 94% of arriving spouses spoke basic or no English.<sup>7</sup>

#### a. Sponsors' English levels

English level	Number of sponsors	Percentage (of families with data recorded)	Percentage (including where no data recorded)
Native	5	0.4	0.4
Fluent	75	6.5	6.4
Good	488	42.5	41.6
Basic	407	35.5	34.7
None	173	15.1	14.7
No Data	25	–	2.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,173</i>		

#### b. Arriving spouses' English levels<sup>8</sup>

English level	Number of arriving spouses	Percentage (of families with data recorded)	Percentage (including where no data recorded)
Native	0	0	0
Fluent	1	1	1
Good	9	5	5
Basic	49	28	27
None	118	67	65
No Data	5	–	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>182</i>		

<sup>7</sup> Based on data recorded for 1,148 sponsors and 177 arriving spouses.

<sup>8</sup> Information collected as of May 2021, refers to 182 arriving spouses.



### Sponsor's employment status when family arrived

Employment status	Number of sponsors	Percentage
Full Time employed 31 hours +	26	2.2
Part Time employed 0-15 hours per week	32	2.7
Part Time employed 16-30 hours per week	43	3.7
Retired	2	0.2
Self employed	12	1
Student	67	5.7
Looking after family at home	79	6.7
Unable to work due to disability or long-term sickness	43	3.7
Unable to work due to temporary sickness / injury	24	2
Unpaid work for relative	2	0.2
Unemployed (but looking/available for work)	792	67.5
No employment status recorded	51	4.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,173</i>	

### Families supported by area

FRIS Area	Number of families supported	Percentage
East Midlands	58	5
London	25	2
Northern Ireland	68	6
North West	27	2
Scotland	326	28
South West	54	5
Wales	100	9
West Midlands	283	24
Yorkshire	232	20
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,173</i>	

## Length of family separation

Families who were supported by FRIS reported being separated from each other for various lengths of time ranging from under one year to 22 years. The most common length of family separation reported was one to two years (27%) and two to three years (22%).

Number of years separated	Number of families	Percentage (of families with data recorded)	Percentage (including where no data recorded)
0 (under 1 year)	18	1.6	1.5
1	288	26.2	24.6
2	256	23.3	21.8
3	146	13.3	12.4
4	122	11.1	10.4
5	115	10.5	9.8
6	53	4.8	4.5
7	38	3.5	3.2
8	14	1.3	1.2
9	15	1.4	1.3
10	15	1.4	1.3
11	5	0.5	0.4
12	3	0.3	0.3
13	3	0.3	0.3
14	5	0.5	0.4
15	1	0.1	0.1
18	1	0.1	0.1
22	1	0.1	0.1
No data available	74	–	6.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,173</i>		

## Appendix 3 – Additional data on housing findings

### 1. On arrival

#### Breakdown of families' housing situation on the day of arrival<sup>9</sup>

Type of housing	Number of families	Percentage
Moved into emergency housing (with sponsor)	129	32
Moved into temporary housing (with sponsor)	124	31
Moved into long-term social housing (with sponsor)	47	12
Moved into long-term private housing (with sponsor)	43	11
Sofa surfing / charity / informal housing (with sponsor)	30	8
Street homeless	17	4
Not living with sponsor	7	2
<i>Total</i>	397	

Most of the families who were not provided with local authority housing on the day of arrival were spouse-only families. Spouse-only families rarely meet the priority need requirement for emergency housing in England and Wales.

**Eight per cent** of families were in informal housing arrangements such as sofa surfing with friends and **four per cent** were street homeless. In addition, **two per cent** of spouses were unable to live with the sponsor on arrival.

### 2. Emergency housing

#### Time taken to access emergency housing

Of the families supported by FRIS<sup>10</sup>:

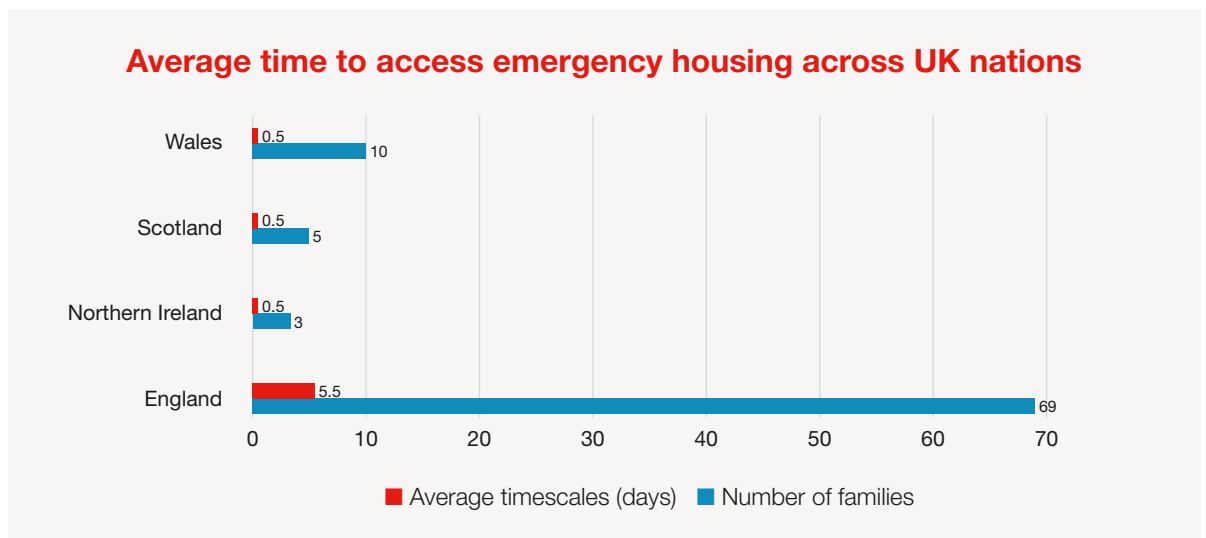
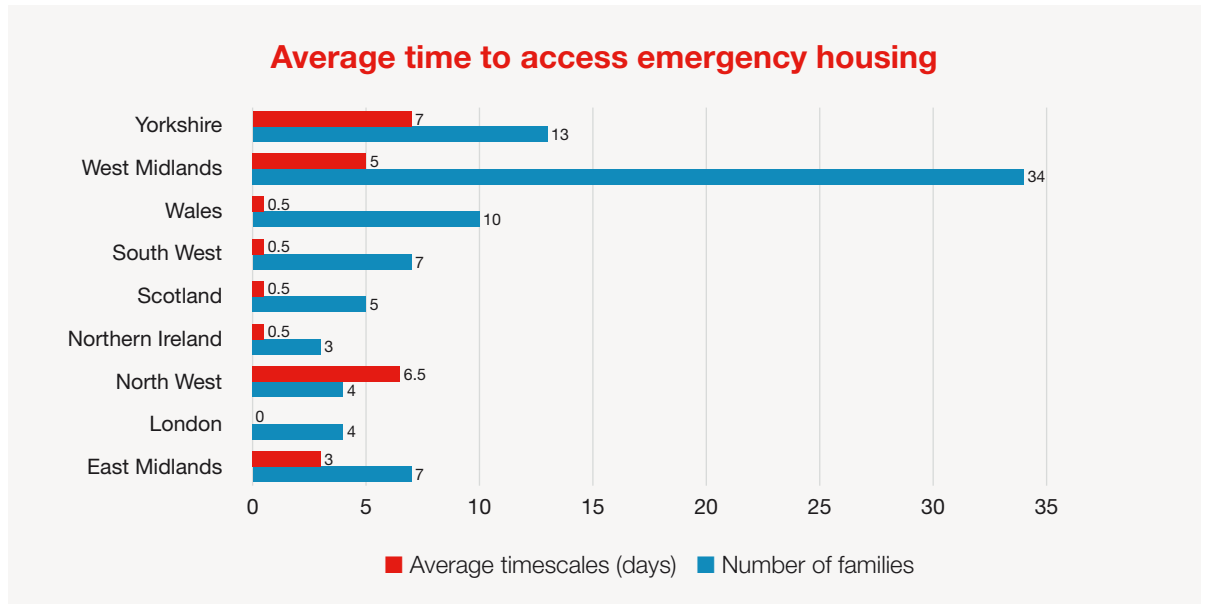
- **74%** were provided accommodation either on the day or the day after arrival
- **22%** waited between two and 30 days
- **Four per cent** of families waited over 30 days for emergency housing

The time taken for reunited refugee families to access this type of housing varies depending on their location. The average time taken for families to be provided emergency accommodation varies between **five and a half days** in England and **half a day** in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Emergency housing is more accessible in the devolved nations than in England, often meaning that families in England are more likely to remain in the sponsor's unsuitable accommodation or sofa surf with friends while waiting for accommodation from the local authority.

<sup>9</sup> Data for this was collected as of May 2021. It refers to 397 families where data was recorded.

<sup>10</sup> Data refers to 87 families where data was recorded.



#### Time spent in emergency accommodation

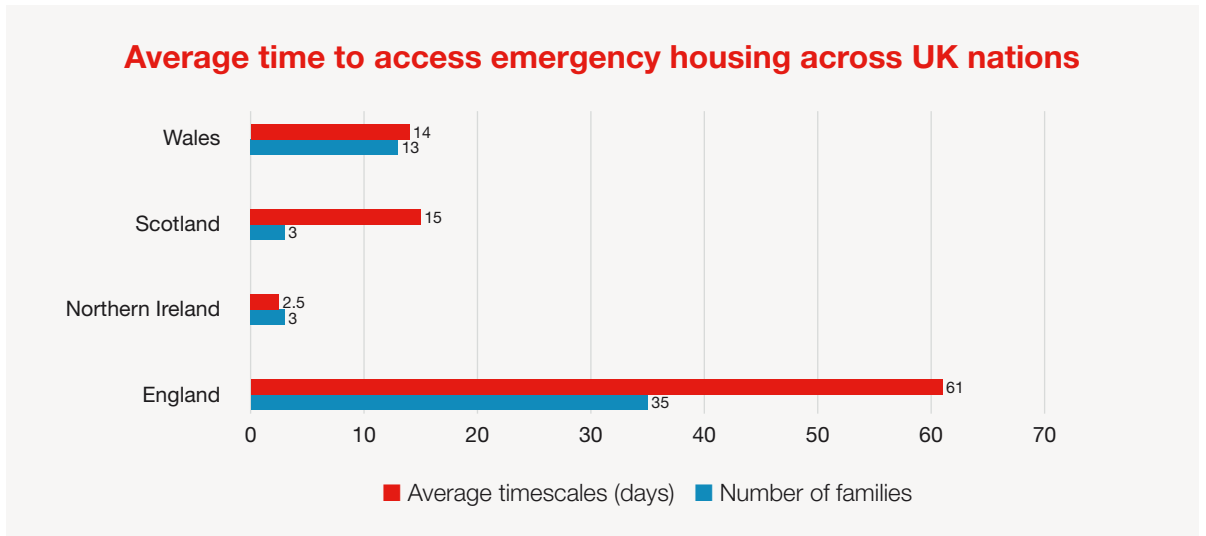
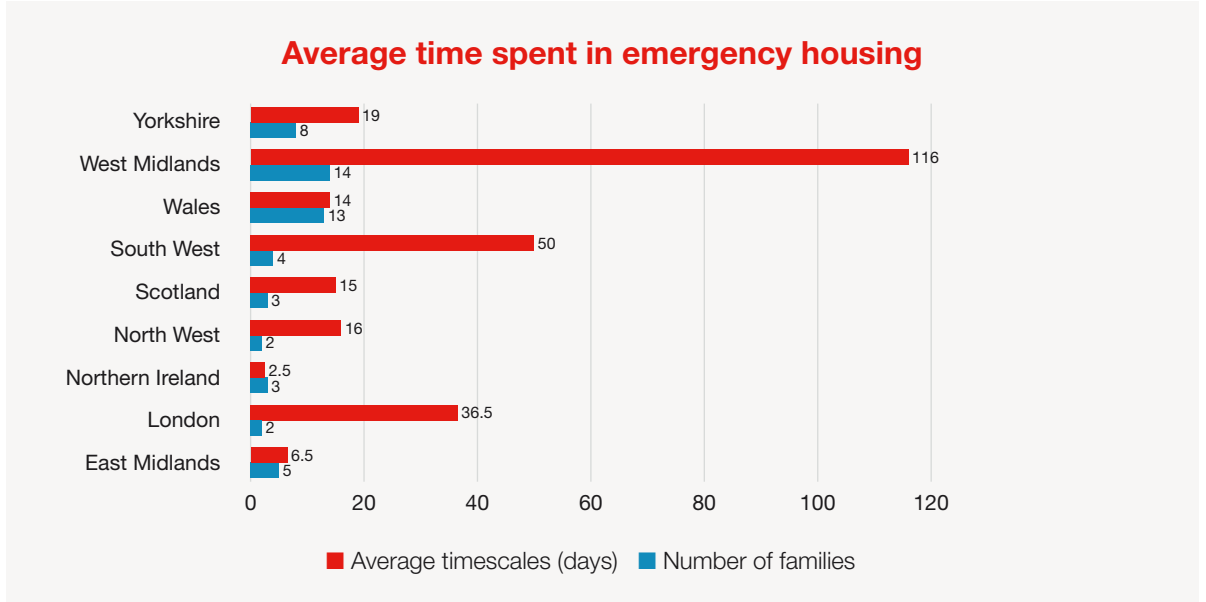
Of the families supported by FRIS<sup>11</sup>:

- **Five per cent** stayed in emergency housing for less than 30 days
- **41%** stayed between 30 to 60 days
- **24%** between 60 to 90 days
- **19%** for over 90 days
- **11%** for over 120 days – of these the majority were in the West Midlands

The time families stayed in this type of housing varied depending on their location, with those in the West Midlands spending more than twice as long in this type of accommodation as those in other FRIS regions. Families in Northern Ireland had the shortest stay of two days in emergency housing, families were then provided a 'Single Let' self-contained property from the NIHE. In Scotland existing pre-arrival protocols for housing mean that the numbers are significantly lower as most reunited refugee families are provided with temporary accommodation on arrival.

<sup>11</sup> Data refers to 54 families where data was recorded.

The graph below shows the disparities in the length of time spent in emergency accommodation across regions.



Families in England spent on average three times longer in emergency accommodation, compared to families in the devolved nations.

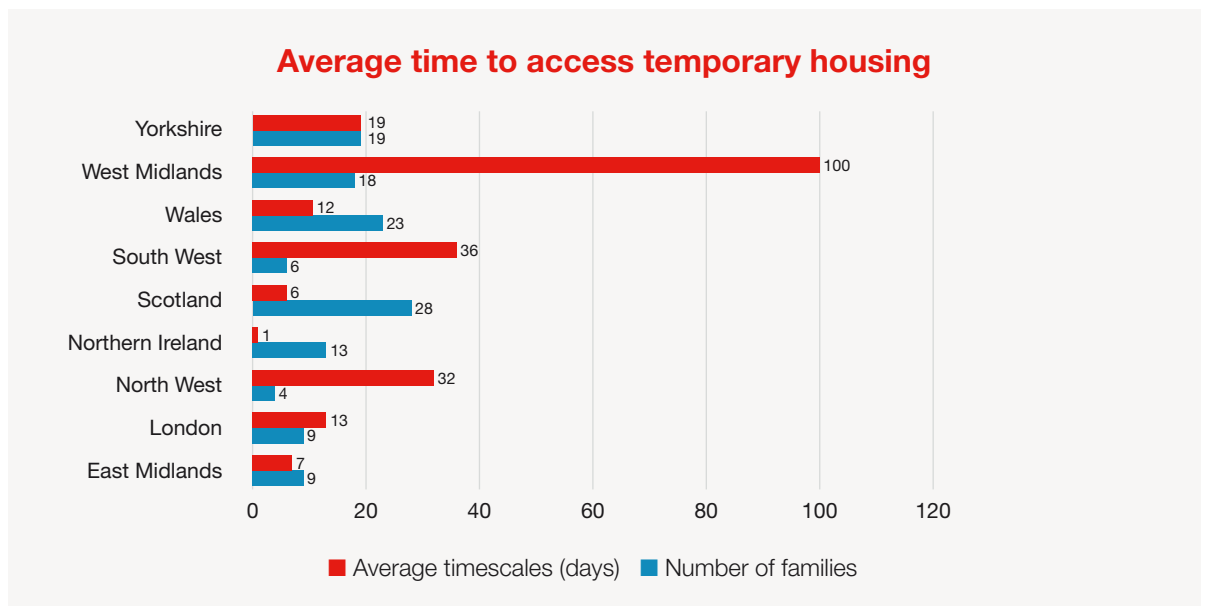
### 3. Temporary housing

#### Time taken to access temporary housing

Of the families supported by FRIS<sup>12</sup>:

- **45%** moved into temporary housing either on the day or the day after arrival
- **Four per cent** of families waited between two to 30 days
- **25%** of families waited over 30 days
- **12%** waited over 60 days
- **Nine per cent** waited over 90 days
- **Five per cent** waited over 120 days for temporary housing

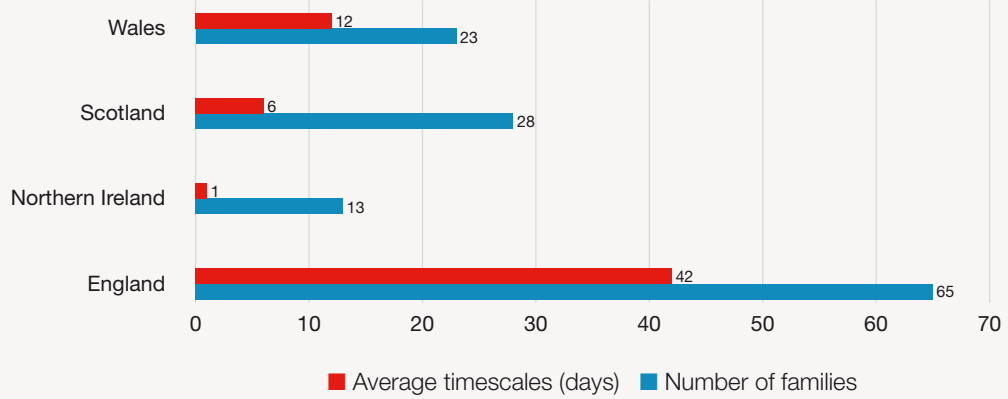
The time taken for reunited refugee families to access this type of housing varied depending on their location. Families in the West Midlands spent **64%** longer waiting to be housed in temporary accommodation than families in the South West which had the second longest average timescale of 36 days. As with emergency accommodation, it took considerably longer for families to be provided temporary accommodation in the West Midlands than in other regions.



Those in England spent on average more than twice as long in temporary accommodation than those in the devolved nations. Reunited refugee families in England spent longer in hotels and hostels as temporary accommodation was less accessible than in the devolved nations.

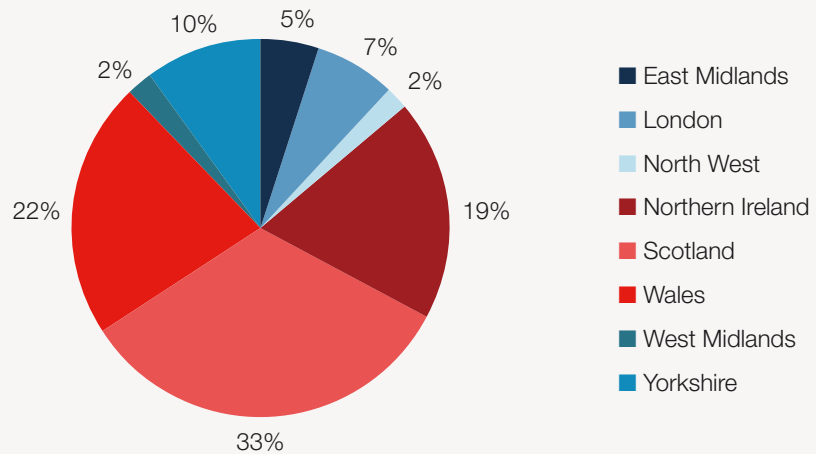
<sup>12</sup> Based on data recorded for 129 families.

### Average time to access temporary housing across UK nations



Of the **45%** who moved into temporary housing either on the day or the day after arrival, **74% lived in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland**. Scotland housed the most reunited refugee families in temporary housing on arrival at 33%. Glasgow City Council accepts pre-arrival notifications and provides a temporary furnished flat to the sponsor a few days before the family's arrival. In comparison, only **26%** of families were housed by local authorities in England in temporary housing on the day of arrival.

### Access to temporary housing on the day of or day after arrival by region



<sup>13</sup> The South West is not included as no families were recorded as accessing temporary housing on the day of or day after arrival.

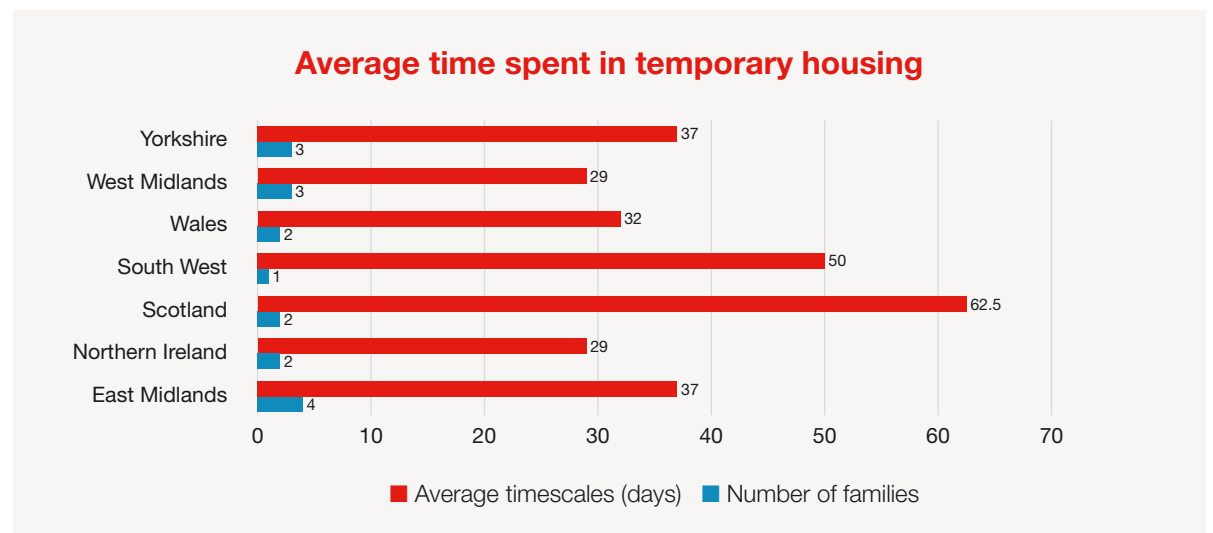
### Time spent in temporary housing<sup>14</sup>

Of the families that were provided with temporary housing:

- **13%** of families progressed from temporary to long-term housing within 120 days of arrival
- **87%** of families that moved into temporary housing remained in this accommodation for longer than 120 days

Of the families with completed timescales for time in temporary accommodation:

- **41%** of families remained in this type of accommodation for less than 30 days
- **41%** stayed between 31 to 60 days
- **18%** stayed between 61 to 90 days



15

## 4. Long-term housing

### Time to access long-term housing (social and private)<sup>16</sup>

Of families who accessed long-term housing:

- **55%** of families did so either on the day or day after arrival
- **20%** of families waited over 30 days to move into long-term housing
- **15%** waited over 60 days
- **Seven per cent** waited over 90 days
- **Three per cent** waited over 120 days for long-term housing

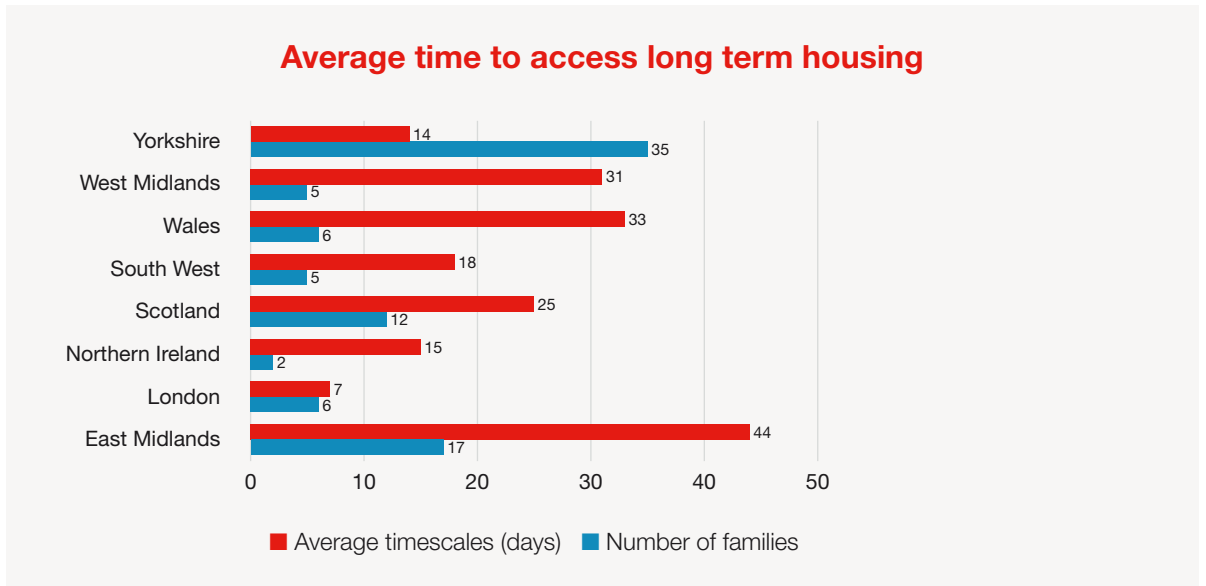
The time taken for reunited refugee families to access long-term housing varied depending on their location. More than twice the number of reunited families moved into long-term housing in Yorkshire (35 families), than in the East Midlands (17 families) which had the second highest number of families accessing this type of accommodation. **Forty per cent** of families that moved into long-term housing within 120 days were in Yorkshire.

<sup>14</sup> Based on data recorded for 17 families.

<sup>15</sup> North West and London not included as no families were recorded as leaving temporary housing while supported by FRIS, so no completed timescales are available.

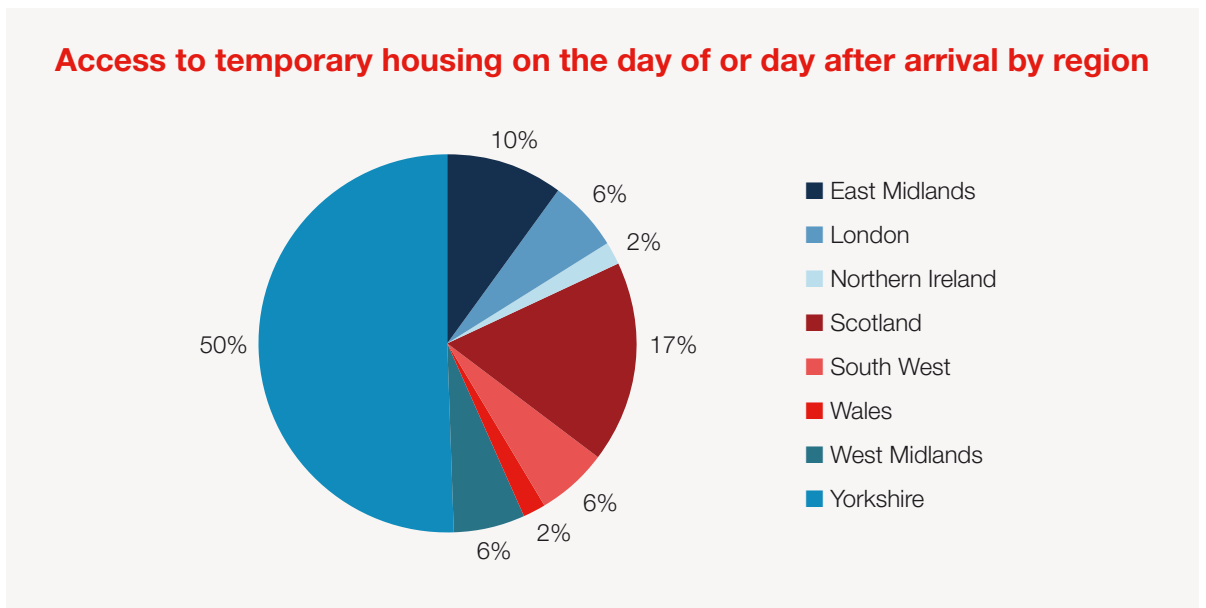
<sup>16</sup> Based on data recorded for 88 families with a tenancy agreement of at least six months.





17

**Fifty per cent<sup>18</sup>** of the families that accessed long-term housing on the day of or day after arrival were housed in Yorkshire, compared to other regions that rarely saw families move into long-term housing during the time in which they were supported by FRIS. This is likely because Leeds City Council proactively supports sponsors to find private long-term housing before the arrival of their family.



19

<sup>17</sup> The North West is not included as no families were recorded as having moved into long-term housing while they were supported by FRIS.

<sup>18</sup> Based on data recorded for 48 families.

<sup>19</sup> See footnote 17 above.

For more information

**[redcross.org.uk](https://www.redcross.org.uk)**

**@RedCrossPolicy**

March 2022

The British Red Cross Society, incorporated by Royal Charter 1908, is a charity registered in England and Wales (220949), Scotland (SC037738), Isle of Man (0752) and Jersey (430).