



**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

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Dear Colleague,

On 22 June 1948 the MV Empire Windrush arrived in our country. This has become symbolic of the arrival of many migrants from the Caribbean to our shores to help re-build the 'mother country' following the Second World War. Subsequent generations have established roots and made the United Kingdom their home. This journey and the contribution of the Windrush generation is now woven into the tapestry of our nation. The Windrush generation, along with our nation's many diverse communities and cultures, have contributed a great deal to the rich cultural, social and economic fabric of the United Kingdom.

As part of 2018's celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of this arrival, the Prime Minister announced the creation of the Windrush Commemoration Committee. This group, chaired by Baroness Floella Benjamin, was set up to advise the Government on how best to produce a fitting and permanent tribute to the Windrush generation. After months of discussion, the committee have advised that a permanent physical monument should be built inside Waterloo Station. This decision was announced by the Prime Minister last weekend on 22 June.

Many Windrush generation passengers who arrived at ports around the country continued their journey by rail into central London and arrived at Waterloo Station. Further, Waterloo is a busy station and will therefore be a very prominent site for the monument. Finally, the station's owners, Network Rail, are able to provide support for the maintenance, upkeep and security of the monument. The commemoration committee is made up of key community figures and they will work with my department to take forward work overseeing the design and implementation of the monument.

My department has also been working with further key figures in the British Caribbean community to commemorate, celebrate and educate about the sacrifice and service of the Windrush generation and their descendants. It was announced last year that a national Windrush Day would be marked annually on 22 June, supported by £500,000 of Government funding. This year the grant has been divided amongst fifty community projects across the country which seek to share the incredible stories of the Windrush Generation. The projects are working hard to highlight the story and journey of the Windrush Generation and their descendants, and although Windrush Day on the 22 June was a successful starting

point for many, projects and events will take place across the summer and up until Black History Month in October. I encourage you to note and consider visiting any activities and celebrations near you, or up and down the country. You can find a full list of where and when events are taking place here: <https://bit.ly/2MJRPcL> and further information about the projects here: <https://bit.ly/2W5qGR5>..

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Brokenshire', written in a cursive style.

RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP