UK Asylum Information	Last Updated: 20/04/2026	English

12 Subject Access Request

UK

A Subject Access Request (SAR) to the Home Office is very important for an asylum seeker. It allows you to access the information held about your case, including interview records, decisions, and correspondence. This information helps a lawyer better understand your case history, identify any errors or missing details, and prepare stronger arguments. Without a SAR, key information may be missing, which can delay your case or affect your chances of success. Requesting your SAR early can help ensure your case is handled as effectively as possible.

What is SAR?

A Subject Access Request (SAR) is a legal request you can make to obtain copies of personal information that the Home Office holds about you. This includes records related to your immigration and asylum history. It's for free you do not need to pay for it

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How do I request a SAR?

You can request a SAR by completing the Home Office SAR application form, which is available online from this link
https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/saru
or by sending a written request by email to
subjectaccessrequest@homeoffice.gov.uk or post to the Home Office SAR team.
You should clearly state that you are making a Subject Access Request and include your personal details such as name, nationality, date of birth, your asylum reference number or any relevent Home Office reference number and a copy of your ID, passport or ARC card.
The Home Office should respond within 30 days.

What information will the SAR contain?

A SAR may include:

- Your asylum application records
- Interview transcripts or notes
- Decision letters
- Correspondence between you and the Home Office
- Records of any previous immigration applications
- Internal Home Office notes related to your case

You have to specify in your request what are the main documents or information you are requesting.

What documents do I need when applying for a SAR?

You will usually need to provide:

- Proof of identity (such as a passport or ID document)
- Any reference numbers (such as your Home Office or case reference number)

Providing accurate and complete information helps the Home Office locate your records more quickly.
If you don't have a copy of your ID you can submit a passport style photo of yourself with the other relevant personal information needed.

Refugee Legal Support