



**Baobab
Women's
Project**



My FLO(PF) has taken since Jan 14, why haven't I had a decision, is there anything I can do to make them answer?

The Home Office take time to decide on applications. This is a fact. Guidance on the [UKVI website says 8 weeks](#), but it often takes longer in practice, especially when your case is outside the norm, for example you overstayed a visa, are a refused asylum seeker or have a criminal record. See other peoples experiences on the [Immigration Board Forum](#).

If you think its taken too long, and you cannot wait for their decision, contact the Home Office first to ask why the delay. You should have received a letter from them saying they have the application with the details you need on it. Make sure you put

- Your address on it,*
- Date you write the letter,*
- Their address and name the right person / department to send it to,*
- Put your application reference number, your full name, date of birth and nationality,*
- When you applied, how long you wait,*
- The reason why you need a decision, why can't you wait?*
- Be polite, Home Office decisions are processed like a machine not as person with a heart, but it is a person with a heart reading the letter, appeal to their humanity, we are all human. You will probably get a response from the machine!*

There are often places that might help people with these letters, in Birmingham there is the Migrants Union, Fridays ARC Drop in. In London PRAXIS community project.

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When its been more than 3-4 months, the Home Office machine has suggested they will respond in time, and you have a good reason for needing a decision now. Visit your MP to ask them to contact the Home Office on your behalf, to ask when a decision will be made, find your MP [here](#).

To do a Judicial Review (JR), you need a really good reason why a decision is urgent and either lot of money to pay a solicitor (£4000/£5000 not too much), or a love of filling in forms, reading law & photocopying to do yourself! A JR could be done due to administration / procedural delays on answering your case. If you do this, and the court agree that its taking to long, they could order the Home Office to give a decision within a certain time.

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