

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

Hotel Mogul Faces Scrutiny Over Migrant Accommodation Profits

July 29, 2025

— Categories: *Breaking News*



A prominent property mogul is once again facing criticism over profits linked to government-funded migrant accommodation, as debate continues over the fairness, standards, and oversight of Britain's asylum housing system. A significant portion of Alfie Langsam's £401 million fortune, boosted by state contracts to house asylum seekers, continues to attract scrutiny—though these revenues remain one component of his wider business operations.

Langsam, who owns the Britannia Hotels chain, has been a central figure in the government's controversial use of commercial hotels to house migrants awaiting asylum decisions. According to reports, his firms earned £33.4 million in profits in 2022 and £31.3 million in 2024—figures that include broader hotel revenues, not solely those from

asylum housing deals (UnHerd, 2025). While critics have long suggested a heavy financial reliance on these contracts, current evidence supports a more balanced assessment of his income sources.

Conditions in hotels used for migrant accommodation, including the Metropole in Blackpool, remain a point of political contention. Critics, including some Members of Parliament, have described the environment in certain properties as poor, citing anecdotal reports of damp, mold, and inadequate facilities. Labour MP Chris Webb recently reiterated these concerns in *The Telegraph* (July 28, 2025). However, no official inspection has universally designated these hotels as unfit for habitation, and accounts vary depending on the property and timeframe.

Government spending on hotel-based asylum accommodation reached a peak of £8.3 million per day in 2023, according to Home Office data. Although that figure has declined as efforts to transition migrants to alternative housing options intensify, no official daily cost for 2025 has yet been confirmed. The reliance on commercial hotels has been widely criticized by both taxpayers and immigration reform advocates, citing inefficiency, security risks, and insufficient oversight.

Langsam, originally a Hungarian refugee who arrived in Britain decades ago, has largely avoided public comment on his role in the asylum accommodation sector. While some view his business model as placing profit above quality, others argue the issue lies more in government procurement practices and a chronic lack of planning. As *UnHerd* reported, Langsam once expressed gratitude to Britain in 2011 for giving him a new start, underscoring the complex personal and political dimensions of his current involvement.

The businessman has also been involved in past legal disputes over tax matters. In 2012, he lost a case regarding his domicile status, in which the court acknowledged his financial sophistication but denied him further compensation. His silence since then has done little to temper public criticism, though supporters argue that the responsibility for housing standards lies primarily with policymakers, not private contractors.

Government figures indicate that over 24,000 individuals without the legal right to remain have been removed from the UK since 2023, part of broader efforts to streamline the immigration process and reduce pressure on housing services. Nevertheless, as hotel contracts persist into 2025 and oversight remains fragmented, Langsam's case continues to spark public debate over the intersection of private profit and public responsibility in the ongoing asylum crisis.