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Dear Parents,

Delays to multi-agency supportability assessments for children with additional needs

The MOD has a responsibility to ensure that family members can be safely supported overseas. As part of the overseas accompanied assignment process, information is gathered about children aged 0-18 to understand any support needs they may have. For many children, this information allows a decision to be made at a *single agency* level. However, where the information gathered indicates that a child may have additional needs a *multi-agency overseas impact assessment* (MOIA, previously known as MASO) is required to determine whether those needs can be met.

Due to high levels of demand, there are currently **significant delays** in the completion of pre-assignment MOIA/MASOs. Families should currently plan on the basis that a pre-assignment MOIA/MASO will take **up to six months** to complete once it has been raised. Any time taken to gather evidence is separate and may further extend the overall timescale. If a MOIA/MASO is required, families are **strongly advised not to make assignment-related arrangements** until the assessment process has been completed and a decision has been made. This includes:

- Arranging removals.
- Withdrawing children from school or education provision in the UK.
- Ending therapy or specialist support arrangements in the UK.
- Making decisions to serve unaccompanied.

Once a MOIA/MASO is raised, the following steps will take place:

> **Stage 1: Waiting List.** The case is placed on a waiting list and will be reviewed in date order. Currently, it may take up to three months until the team begin processing a case.
>
> **Stage 2: Evidence Review.** When processing begins the OES Team will review the information submitted to ensure it is complete and up to date. If further evidence is required, parents will be contacted and asked to provide it.
>
> **Stage 3: Assessment.** Once all required information has been received the MOIA/MASO process begins. From this point, the assessment process can take up to 12 weeks to complete.

If these timescales are likely to affect an overseas assignment, Service personnel should discuss this with their Career Manager and the respective Chains of Command. The OES Team is unable to expedite individual cases or enter into correspondence about timescales as this only imposes further delay on the wider caseload. We thank families for their patience and understanding while assessments are completed and assure you work is in hand to reduce the current timelines.

Gemma Hunt
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