



The Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson MP  
Home Affairs Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

7 June 2023

Dear Dame Diana,

Thank you for your letter dated 20 April 2023 to the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP, regarding costs associated with the Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) between the UK and Rwanda. As the Minister of State responsible for the MEDP, I would like to take this opportunity to reply.

As Accounting Officer, the Permanent Secretary received an assessment of the regularity, propriety, feasibility and value for money of the MEDP, drawing on legal, policy and operational expertise. This informed the exchange of letters between the then Home Secretary and Permanent Secretary regarding the ministerial direction to establish a migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda. We have always been clear that we expect the deterrent effect of the MEDP to materialise once relocations begin. Initial uncertainty is to be expected with a partnership as innovative and ground-breaking as this; however, it stands to reason that for those willing to pay smuggling gangs thousands of pounds to facilitate a dangerous, unnecessary and illegal journey to the UK, the probability of relocation to Rwanda at the end of that journey will prove a deterrent and therefore reduce costs to the asylum system overall.

We recognise the public interest in transparency and accountability of public authorities. However, this also must be balanced against public interests which work the other way. For example, you will recognise the importance of respecting commercial confidence and the maintenance of confidence between international partners.

Whilst we carefully consider these commercially and internationally sensitive factors, the Home Office is committed to being open and transparent through the publication of information where this is appropriate. I can confirm to you that expenses closely associated with the MEDP include but may not be limited to:

- a £120 million initial investment as part of a new Economic Transformation and Integration Fund to help the economic development and growth of Rwanda;
- a £20 million advance payment to cover initial asylum set-up and operations costs so that Rwanda is ready to accept the first relocated individuals;
- £1.3 million defending the partnership in the High Court as of March 2023. This relates to the Judicial Review and over a hundred different cases which have been brought forward by individual claimants and groups. As legal cases are ongoing and final spend cannot yet be determined, further costs may be released in due course.

As you acknowledged, departmental spend is reported as part of the annual Home Office Reports and Accounts as well as in Central Government Supply Estimates. For the reasons above as well as others such as national security, successive governments have not explicitly detailed specifically where each pound of departmental spend has gone. As required by Treasury guidance, and considering the public interest in transparency, the department will carefully consider the level of detail in relation to the MEDP it would be appropriate to provide in its accounts.

I hope this information is useful. Thank you once again for taking the time to write on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Jenrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

**Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP**  
**Minister of State for Immigration**