



## Public Accounts Committee



Home Affairs  
Committee

**Mr Gareth Davies  
Comptroller and Auditor General  
National Audit Office  
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road,  
London SW1W 9SP  
By email**

8 December 2023

### **UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership**

Dear Comptroller and Auditor General,

This morning we [wrote jointly to the Home Office Permanent Secretary, Sir Matthew Rycroft](#), to express concern at the lack of information available to Parliament in relation to spending on the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership scheme.

The position of the Home Office has been that it would only inform Parliament of spending in relation to the scheme as part of its annual report and accounts. The UK Government paid Rwanda £140m in the financial year 2022-23 and an additional £50 million will be paid to Rwanda in 2024-25. We have now received a letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> December from the Permanent Secretary informing us that £100m was paid to the Rwandan Government in April 2023. Given that accounts are normally laid in Parliament in July following the end of the accounting year, Parliament would not have been able to scrutinise this expenditure until July 2024, 15 months after the money was spent. We have requested that the Home Office now provides Parliament with quarterly updates on the scheme.

This scheme was delivered only after the Permanent Secretary requested a Ministerial Direction on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Given lack of clarity around value for money that led to the request for that direction we have serious concerns about delivery and achieving value for taxpayer's money.

In light of the high profile nature of this scheme – which is now subject to a major piece of legislation – its importance to government policy, and the sums being spent, we ask that you consider whether the National Audit Office may wish to look into the costs of the scheme and its value for money.

The Committee will publish this letter.

Yours Sincerely

Dame Meg Hillier  
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts

Rt Hon. Dame Diana Johnson  
Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee