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Dame Diana Johnson MP
Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee

By email: johnsond@parliament.uk
Cc: morterb@parliament.uk; mcleanp@parliament.uk

Dear Dame Diana,

Thank you for inviting me to speak to the Home Affairs' Select Committee earlier this month. The Committee's Human Trafficking Inquiry has been hugely important, and I thank the Committee for its commitment to covering such a critical issue. I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Committee throughout my time as the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

During my appearance, I said I would follow up on two points:

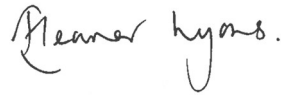
- Firstly, Kim Johnson MP asked: *"In 2022, the Home Office issued 236,000 employer-sponsored visas. Do you know how many visas have been issued since then?"* (Q16). According to the Home Office¹, there were 229,817 sponsored 'worker' visas issued to 'main applicants' including 'skilled workers' and 'health and care workers' in the year ending September 2023 (and 241,150 sponsored 'worker' visas issued to 'dependents' in the same period).
- Secondly, Alison Thewliss MP asked: *"This is just what I heard from Guardianship Scotland. They are having more children come into the system. The Scottish Government is doing its bit and funding that, but it is really the Home Office's job to fund this kind of system, isn't it?"* (Q41). Home Office officials assure me they work closely with the Scottish Government and other devolved administrations to tackle modern slavery right across the UK. The Scottish Government has discretion to fund whatever provisions they deem necessary to support child victims of modern slavery in Scotland. Similar to the role envisaged for Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) in England and Wales in the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the Scottish

¹ Entry clearance visa applications issued to main applicants in the year ending Sept 2023, [Immigration system statistics data tables - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-data-tables); [Why do people come to the UK? To work - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work).

Government legislated through the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 to provide ICTGs in Scotland. 'Guardianship Scotland' provides ICTGs – to complement the roles and responsibilities of other statutory agencies – through a consortium of Aberlour Children's Charity and the Scottish Refugee Council. An important distinction between the models is that, in Scotland, ICTGs specifically provide support only for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. It has been great to speak with the Scottish Government so early on in my role and hear about the work they are doing to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking. And I will continue to work closely with all the devolved administrations in the development of my Strategic Plan and throughout my tenure.

- Please let me know if there is anything I can do to further assist the Committee's work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eleanor Lyons'.

Eleanor Lyons
Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner