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Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Joanna Cherry KC MP
Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights
House of Commons
London
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Dear Joanna,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding a debate on the UK-Rwanda treaty.

The Government places great importance on providing opportunity for parliamentary scrutiny. We have sought to provide this opportunity as part of the passage of the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill, which is intrinsically linked, and gives legal effect, to the treaty. We recently had two days of debate on the floor of the House allowing members to scrutinise this policy, during which the debate on Tuesday 16th January concluded two hours early.

The Government's commitment to holding debates during the CRaG process is subject to the request being made in a timely manner and parliamentary time being available. As I am sure you will appreciate, there are a range of competing demands for time in the Chamber and there is, as always, pressure on the Government's timetable this session.

While it has not been possible to find time for a debate in Government time, the House will have the opportunity to debate and scrutinise the treaty alongside the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill as it continues its passage through the House.