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Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Home Secretary

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The Rt Hon the Lord Goldsmith KC
Chair, House of Lords International Agreements Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

14 March 2024

Dear Lord Goldsmith,

**International Agreements Committee (IAC): Scrutiny of international agreements:
UK–Rwanda Agreement on an Asylum Partnership**

I note the publication on 17 January of the IAC's report into the UK-Rwanda treaty, as well as the outcome of your motion of 22 January not to ratify, for which we are considering our next steps.

The Joint Committee met last month to discuss readiness for operationalisation. Implementation continues apace, including for the Monitoring Committee's support team, the new appeals body and other changes to Rwanda's system. The legislation required for Rwanda to ratify the treaty has passed through their parliament and now awaits the President's signature. Although there are more steps Rwanda needs to take before operationalisation, this is a key step towards implementation and an indication of Rwanda's unwavering determination to implement and deliver the partnership.

As concerns the UK's implementation, I am sure you appreciate the importance of the process we first need to navigate in accordance with the Constitutional Reform and Governance ('CRaG') Act. We will continue to adhere to that process, as well as that of the Vienna Convention as concerns the ratification process itself. To that end, you will be aware of Part 2 of the CRaG Act which lays out the path ahead. The Government will, therefore, lay out its next steps in due course and respond formally, in full, to your Committee's report; however, the timeframe for this will extend beyond your expectation of a substantive response by 17 March.

With best wishes,

Yours ever,

**RT HON JAMES CLEVERLY MP
HOME SECRETARY**