



**HOUSE OF LORDS**

International Agreements Committee

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Rt Hon James Cleverly MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
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14 March 2024

Dear Home Secretary

**International Agreements Committee: Report on the UK–Rwanda Agreement on an Asylum Partnership: Government response**

I refer to your letter of today's date concerning the Government response to the International Agreement Committee's Report on the UK-Rwanda Asylum Partnership Agreement, also known as the Rwanda Treaty.

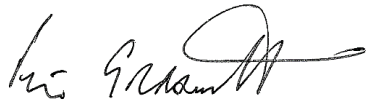
Your letter conflates two different things. As a result of the motion which was passed by the House of Lords on 22 January under section 20 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRAG), the Government may not ratify the Rwanda Treaty unless it has laid a statement before the House setting out the reasons why it considers that the Treaty should be ratified. CRAG sets no deadline for such a statement beyond the need for it to be laid in advance if the Government wishes to proceed to ratification.

There is an entirely separate requirement on the Government to respond to the IAC Report. As you will be aware, there is a longstanding Government commitment to respond to House of Lords select committee reports within two months of publication, where possible. This is not a question of the Committee's expectation but of the Government's commitment. The two-month period in relation to the IAC Report on the Rwanda Treaty expires on 17 March.

Your letter of 14 March indicates that you do not intend to provide a substantive response to the IAC Report by that deadline. Nor does it offer any reason why a response by that deadline, in line with the normal Government commitment, is not possible. In view of the fact that the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill is nearing the conclusion of its passage through Parliament, this situation is highly regrettable. As the IAC pointed out in its Report, since the Bill asks Parliament to declare that Rwanda is a safe country based on the provisions of the Treaty, it is important that Parliament should be satisfied that the Treaty has been fully implemented. That can only be done by updating Parliament in detail on the outstanding issues highlighted in the IAC Report.

I would therefore invite you to reconsider providing a substantive response to the IAC Report on the Rwanda Treaty by the 17 March deadline so that Parliament has this information as it considers the final stages of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'The Rt Hon. the Lord Goldsmith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**The Rt Hon. the Lord Goldsmith KC**

Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Committee