

Rt Hon Lord Johnson
Chair, International Agreements Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

June 2026

Dear Lord Johnson,

UK-France Treaty on the Prevention of Dangerous Journeys

It was a pleasure to meet with the Committee in December 2025 to discuss the UK-France Treaty on the Prevention of Dangerous Journeys. As you are aware, the UK-France Pilot represents a significant example of close and constructive cooperation between the United Kingdom and France. Under the Treaty, the UK can return those who arrive via small boat back to France with the aim to deter others from attempting the same dangerous journey.

To date, over 900 migrants have been removed under the pilot scheme, with a similar number arriving in the UK via the new, safe and legal route. We remain committed to increasing these numbers over the coming months.

I am writing to you now with an update that the UK and France have jointly agreed to extend the UK-France Returns Treaty beyond 11 June 2026 until the Autumn. This extension reflects the strength of the UK–France partnership and our shared commitment to tackling illegal migration and breaking the business model of the criminal gangs that profit from dangerous Channel crossings.

In addition to extending the Treaty, the UK and France have also agreed a minor amendment is necessary to ensure its continued effectiveness. The original Treaty was intentionally designed to only focus on returns of individuals arriving in the UK via small boats, given this is the most predominant method of illegal entry to the UK from France. If these individuals return to the UK via small boat, they have been, and will continue to be returned. However, a small number of cases have recently emerged involving individuals previously removed under the Treaty who have re-entered the UK through other clandestine routes. The UK and France have therefore agreed to amend the Treaty to ensure these cases are clearly included within scope.

An amendment of this nature was anticipated under paragraph 1 of Article 20 of the Treaty which specified that the Parties could agree amendments to ensure the treaty continued to support its intended objectives, including consideration of the: “impact on routes of irregular arrivals to the United Kingdom requiring the application of the Agreement to those who arrive by means other than Small Boats”. No additional practical or legal implementation measures are required as a result of this amendment.

The Treaty has been extended and amended at the same time via an exchange of letters. The letters will be published in the Treaty Series on gov.uk as a Command Paper. The amendments are minor and given that both the amendments and the extension are being agreed by mutual written consent under paragraph 4 of Article 20 and paragraph 1 of Article 22 (respectively) of the current Treaty, they are not required to be laid under CRaG.

I recognise the importance the Committee places on effective parliamentary scrutiny of international agreements. This Government remains committed to transparency and I will ensure the Committee is kept informed of all relevant developments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above the printed name.

Alex Norris MP
Minister for Border Security & Asylum