



Home Office

Home Secretary

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Dame Diana Johnson MP  
Chair, Home Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

14 November 2022

Dear Dame Diana,

### **UK-France Partnership on Illegal Migration**

I am writing to you as the chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee to update you on the UK and French efforts to tackle illegal migration at the shared border.

The UK and France maintain a longstanding relationship on this issue, signing the Sandhurst Treaty in 2018 to take a “whole of route” approach to illegal migration that has been supported by annual bilateral arrangements, most recently in July 2021.

Since the bilateral arrangement reached in July 2021, the UK and France have been working to reinforce our collaboration to address illegal migration. This new arrangement builds upon the successes we have had over the last year.

In 2021, our joint efforts saw more than 23,000 dangerous and unnecessary crossings being prevented. To date in 2022, over 30,000 crossing attempts have been prevented, more than 50% more than at the same stage last year.

Joint working between UK and French officers has secured more than 140 convictions connected to people smuggling since the start of 2020 – and these criminals now face a combined 400 years behind bars.

The UK-France Joint Intelligence Cell has so far dismantled 55 organised crime groups and secured over 500 arrests since its inception in 2020.

Our new partnership with France is underpinned by a set of shared joint strategic objectives and a joint operational plan and builds on the shared commitments under the Sandhurst Treaty. The UK has pledged a financial investment of up to €72.2m (EUR) in 2022/23 to France to assist in the delivery of our joint plan.

Our joint plan signifies a step-change in our ambition, levels of cooperation and determination to increase the impact of our efforts to prevent dangerous crossings and further risk to life. It exemplifies the strength and importance of the UK-France bilateral relationship.

I remain committed to continuing to work with France to address this serious issue which requires long term and ambitious action.

I attach the Joint Statement which will be published on the gov.uk website and sets out further details on the partnership. A copy of this letter and the Joint Statement will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suella Braverman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP**