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House of Lords
London
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The Lord Murray of Blidworth
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Migration and Borders

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30 June 2023

Dear Lord Coaker,

ILLEGAL MIGRATION BILL: GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT FOR REPORT

I am writing to advise you of some further technical Government amendments which I tabled yesterday for the final day of Lords Report.


Safe and legal routes: consultation in Northern Ireland

Clause 59 provides for the Secretary of State to make regulations specifying the maximum number of persons who may enter the UK annually using safe and legal routes. Such regulations must be debated and approved by Parliament. Before making such regulations, the Secretary of State is required to consult such representatives of local authorities, and such other persons or bodies as they considers appropriate. The intention is that the annual cap reflects the country's capacity to accommodate and otherwise support those admitted through safe and legal routes.

Local authorities in Northern Ireland do not have the same remit as those in England and Wales and Scotland; in the context of migration the relevant functions rests with Northern Ireland Departments. In particular, responsibility for housing rests with a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, while responsibility for education provision rests with a separate NDPB, the Education Authority. Following consultation with the Northern Ireland Executive Office, these amendments to clause 59 replace the requirement to consult representatives of local authorities in Northern Ireland with a requirement to consult the Executive Office. The Executive Office will then consult with other Northern Ireland Departments to inform the response to the Secretary of State.

I am copying this letter to Lord Pononsby of Shulbrede, Lord Paddick, the Earl of Kinnoull, Stephen Kinnock MP and Alison Thewliss MP. I am also placing a copy in the library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Murray of Blidworth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

**The Lord Murray of Blidworth
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Migration and Borders**