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Lord Sharpe of Epsom  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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04 March 2024

Dear Lord Purvis

## **SAFETY OF RWANDA (ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION) BILL: HOUSE OF LORDS COMMITTEE STAGE**

I am writing to follow up on the debate in the Lords on day three of Committee (Official Report, 19 February 2024, column 385) regarding the funding elements for the Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP).

You asked for a more detailed breakdown of how much of the Government of Rwanda's expenditure will be funded by the UK. As you will be aware, the National Audit office have now published a report covering the costs incurred to date and the Home Office's estimate of future costs once the partnership is operational.

There are two separate funding elements:

### **1) The Economic Transformation and Integration Fund**

As I explained during the debate, the UK has already provided Rwanda with an initial investment of £120 million in 2022 as part of the Economic Transformation and Integration Fund (ETIF). A further payment of £100 million was made in 2023. This funding aims to support sustainable and inclusive economic growth within Rwanda and improve the conditions of the existing refugee population and host communities. Investment has been focused in areas such as education, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, and job creation.

There will be further anticipated annual payments under the ETIF as follows:

- Year 3: £50 million
- Year 4: £50 million
- Year 5: £50 million

A further £120 million will be paid after the first 300 Relocated Individuals are transferred. In addition to the above fixed payments, the UK agreed to pay £20,000 for each Relocated Individual successfully transferred to Rwanda.

## 2) Operational Costs

In addition to payments under the ETIF, the UK agreed to make payments to Rwanda to cover the asylum processing and operational costs for each individual relocated, and to provide an integration package for each relocated person, which will be made annually in stages over five years so long as the individual remains in Rwanda. These payments total £150,874 per individual over 5 years, with annual payments set out as follows:

- Year 1: £45,262
- Year 2: £37,718
- Year 3: £30,175
- Year 4: £22,632
- Year 5: £15,087

Should a relocated individual decide to leave Rwanda voluntarily, the UK would cease annual payments and pay the Government of Rwanda a one-off £10,000 per individual to help facilitate voluntary departure.

I would like to be clear that all of the costs above were agreed as per the original arrangement in 2022 and are not new as a result of the treaty.

So far, we have provided £20m in Year 1 for operational costs. This was a credit to pay for anticipated future costs in advance of flights. No more has been paid nor will be sent until this has been depleted and is necessary for transfers taking place.

The agreed operational funding would be provided to Rwanda once the Partnership is operational and relocations have commenced. Costs and payments will depend on the number of people relocated, the timing of when this happens, and the outcomes of individual cases. Actual spend will be reported as part of the annual Home Office Reports and Accounts in the usual way.

Finally, you asked whether the funding for the partnership is covered by Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). I can confirm that the payments are not ODA-eligible.

I am copying this letter to Lord Scriven, Lord Etherton, Lord Coaker, Lord Green of Deddington, Baroness Chakrabarti, Viscount Hailsham, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Lord Wolfson of Tredegar, Lord Kerr of Kinlochard and Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede.

I will also place a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

*Sharpe of Epsom*

**Lord Sharpe of Epsom  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State**