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House of Lords
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Lord Sharpe of Epsom
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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04 March 2024

Dear Lord Carlile

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 494) regarding the accommodation currently available in Rwanda.

You asked how many spaces are currently available in Rwanda. As I explained during the debate, both governments have been clear that the scheme is uncapped.

Article 8 of the treaty confirms that upon arrival, Rwanda shall provide each Relocated Individual with accommodation and support that is adequate to ensure the health, security and wellbeing of relocated individuals. Detailed assurances on the standard of accommodation and support Rwanda will ensure those relocated can access without delay upon arrival are set out in the treaty at Part 1 of Annex A.

As I'm sure you will appreciate, the procurement of accommodation for individuals to be relocated to Rwanda under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership is the responsibility of the Government of Rwanda. The initial reception facility at Hope Hostel currently stands ready to accommodate up to 200 relocated individuals. Once their asylum claims have been processed, individuals will be housed in longer term accommodation. The Government of Rwanda has identified other accommodation sites which can be engaged quickly to provide other reception accommodation. Rwanda have also identified a range of other sites and private housing in Kigali for permanent accommodation. In line with current planning, these are sufficient to support several thousand people.

Resources are being provided under the Partnership to develop the capacity of the Rwandan asylum system – we have already provided £20m upfront to support set up costs, for example – and we would anticipate the numbers being relocated ramping up

quickly once the partnership starts to operate and in line with Rwanda's growing capacity.

I am copying this letter to Lord Coaker, Lord Purvis of Tweed, Lord Lilley, Lord Murray of Blidworth, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, Baroness Hamwee, Baroness Lawlor, and Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharpe of Epsom".

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