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Lord Falconer of Thoroton  
House of Lords  
London  
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Lord Sharpe of Epsom  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

12 March 2024

Dear Lord Falconer,

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

I am writing following the debate in the Lords on day two of Report (Official Report, 06 March 2024, column 1636) with regards to the internal procedures required in the UK for ratification of the UK/Rwanda Treaty: Provision of an Asylum Partnership ('the treaty').

As you know, the UK is required to follow Part 2 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 in respect of treaties. We will continue to adhere to that process, as well as that of the Vienna Convention as concerns ratification.

Ratifying the treaty in the UK means the UK consents to be bound by its terms. The Home Office will work closely with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on the required technical steps, including:

- (1) A Letter of Legal Assurance to provide assurances that the necessary legislative, policy and operational measures are in place in the UK such that we can implement the treaty's provisions.
- (2) An instrument of ratification/notice of completion, signed by the Foreign Secretary. This would be in the form of a 'notification of completion of domestic procedures', normally drafted as a Note Verbale.

More information on the UK's treaty practice and procedure is set out online here: [Treaties and MOUs: Guidance on Practice and Procedures](#)

As mentioned during the debate, Article 24 of the treaty states the treaty will enter into force on the date of receipt of the last notification by Rwanda or the UK that their internal procedures for entry into force have been completed.

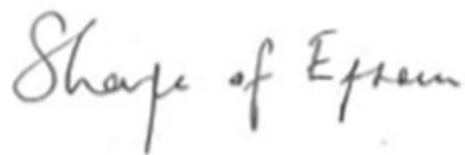
We have been clear that we will only ratify the treaty in the UK once we agree with Rwanda that all necessary implementation is in place for both countries to comply with the obligations under the treaty. The treaty will not enter into force until both governments have ratified.

The legislation required for Rwanda to ratify the treaty has passed through their parliament and now awaits the President's signature. Although there are more steps Rwanda needs to take before operationalisation, this is a key step towards implementation and an indication of Rwanda's unwavering determination to implement and deliver the partnership.

I have copied this letter to Baroness Chakrabarti, Viscount Hailsham, Lord Murray of Blidworth, Lord Scriven, Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede, and Lord Coaker

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**