

The Rt Rev. the Lord Bishop of Southwark
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

16 June 2025

Dear My Lord Bishop,

**BORDER SECURITY, ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION BILL: HOUSE OF LORDS
SECOND READING**

I am writing further to the debate in the Lords at Second Reading, where I indicated I would provide further information relating to the alternative to detention pilot you raised (Official Report 2 June column 590).

As I said during the debate the Department will keep under review the feasibility of alternatives to detention, taking account of effectiveness and cost efficiency, as part of our plans to transform the asylum and returns system.

It is published policy that whilst detention is used to maintain effective immigration control, there is a presumption in favour of liberty and, wherever possible, alternatives to detention must be used. This applies to all those liable for detention.

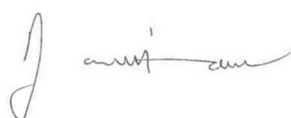
Immigration bail is an alternative to detention and allows the Home Office to maintain contact with individuals who require permission to be in the UK but do not have it, whilst a decision is made on whether to grant permission or pending their removal or deportation.

The Voluntary Returns Service is also available as an alternative to detention. The service provides help, guidance and practical support for typically non-detained individuals who want to depart from the UK.

I look forward to further debate of the Bill as it progresses to Committee stage.

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

Yours sincerely,



Lord Hanson of Flint