



Home Office

Home Secretary

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Juliet Lyon CBE  
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MPAM Reference: MPAM/0346222/22

2 July 2022

Dear Ms Lyon

Thank you for your letter of 10 June, on behalf of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody, about the Home Office's plans for immigration processing in Rwanda.

You will be aware that on 14 April, the Prime Minister announced a package of measures to tackle illegal migration, further strengthen safe and legal routes, and break the business model of people smuggling gangs. Since this announcement, officials have been working to implement the package of measures, putting the New Plan for Immigration into action.

The package includes the following measures:

- A Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda to deter dangerous and illegal journeys to the UK;
- The military - working with Border Force colleagues - taking command of small boat operations in the Channel;
- Nationwide dispersal of asylum seekers to local authority areas to end the reliance on expensive hotels, which cost the taxpayer an average of £4.7 million per day;
- A new asylum accommodation centre in Linton-on-Ouse and new investment in initial triage and processing centres at Western Jet Foil and Manston with enhanced migrant security checks.

Significant work has been undertaken to develop effective processes to support the Migration and Economic Development Partnership and to ensure the delivery of safe, secure and decent conditions for those relocated to Rwanda under the new Partnership. At this time, only those who have claimed asylum, have had an asylum screening interview, whose asylum application has been deemed inadmissible to the UK system, and are considered suitable for detention under our published policy, can be considered for relocation to Rwanda.

The first group of migrants whose claims have been referred for consideration of inadmissibility have been informed of our intention to remove them to Rwanda. Individuals in scope for relocation to Rwanda have been detained in a small number of immigration removal centres (IRCs) whilst a decision is taken as to the suitability of their case for third country removal. Individuals may be considered suitable for

third country removal where their asylum claim is deemed inadmissible to the UK system. Asylum claims are deemed inadmissible if the person travels through a safe country to enter the UK.

In future, individuals will be notified that the Home Office is taking action to determine whether their asylum claim is inadmissible, and whether they may be relocated to Rwanda, by a Notice of Intent.

The decision about whether an individual's asylum claim is inadmissible to the UK system, and whether they are suitable for relocation to Rwanda, will be taken on a case-by-case basis. Nobody will be removed if it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so. There is no strict timeframe to these decisions, however, in parallel, the Home Office will request that Rwandan authorities accept an individual for relocation, and we expect the Rwandan authorities will respond within a matter of days. Thereafter, where it is decided by the Home Office that an individual's asylum claim is inadmissible to the UK system, and that they are suitable for relocation to Rwanda, they will be given notice that the Home Office are intending to remove them to Rwanda. Individuals will be given a minimum of five working days' notice of removal, and this follows a minimum period of seven days after the Notice of Intent is served.

All those detained in IRCs have access to independent interpreting services to assist with understanding the documents or information being shared with them. As set out in DSO 06/2013 "Reception, Induction and Discharge" professional interpreting facilities must be used whenever language barriers are identified on reception, induction or discharge. During the arrivals and induction process, our service providers conduct a primary and secondary language assessment of detained individuals, which is recorded on the individual's profile, to enable appropriate support with engagement throughout their time in the centre. For those who require interpreters, all our IRC staff have round the clock access to telephone interpreters.

Throughout their time in detention, including after receiving a Notice of Intent, individuals have various means for maintaining contact with friends, family members, and legal representatives. All people detained in IRCs are provided with a mobile phone and have access to landline telephones on request, fax machines, email and video calling facilities. Additionally, all individuals in IRCs can receive social and legal in-person visits. Safe systems of work are in place to ensure the safety of detained individuals, onsite staff, and visitors during these visits.

I can assure you that everyone who is considered for relocation to Rwanda will be able to access the same provisions, support, and safeguards that are available to all individuals detained in the immigration removal estate and on escort. This includes access to healthcare, welfare services, legal advice, and with any individual removed from the UK on a charter, healthcare information is provided to the individual to ensure a continuity of care.

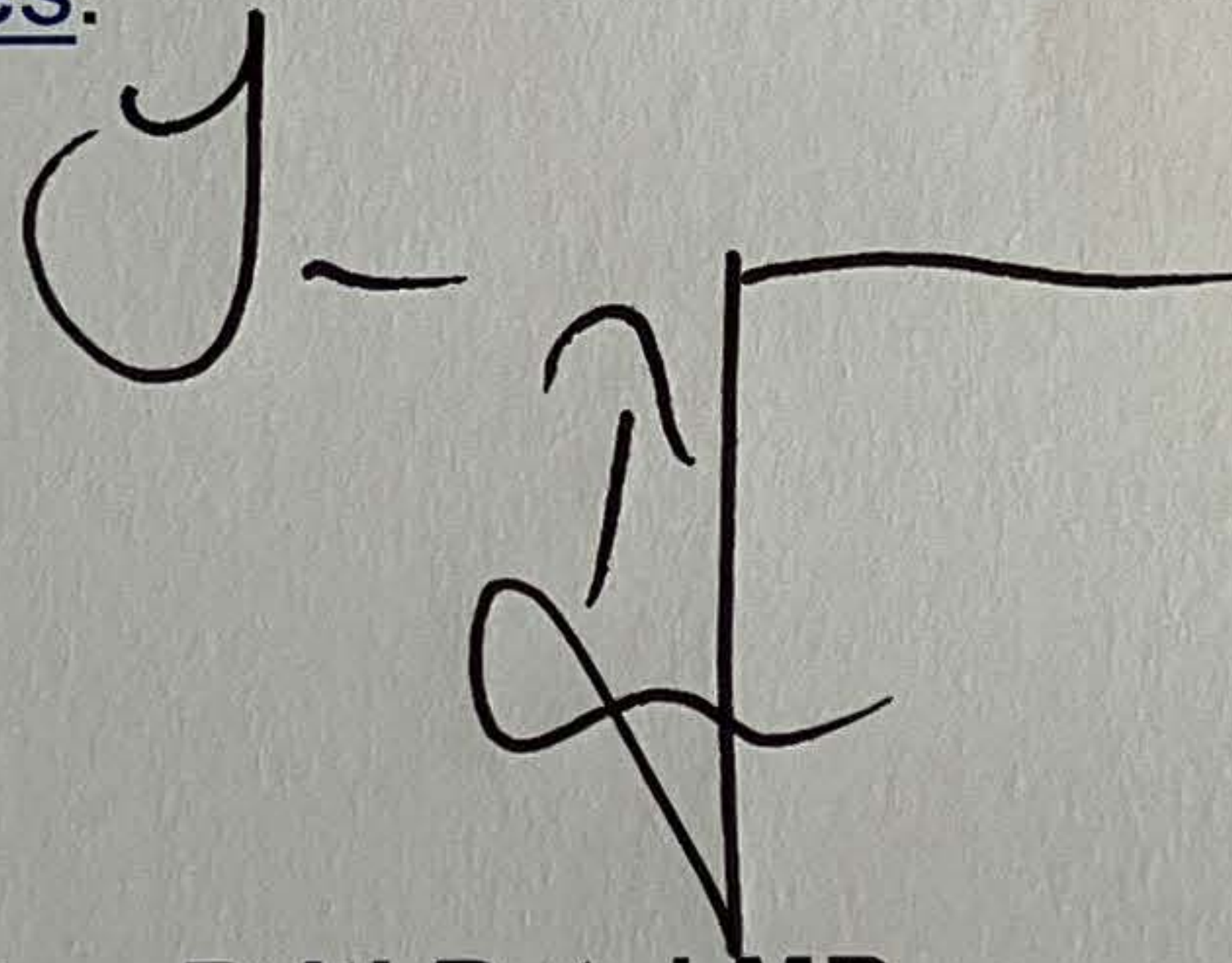
All individuals in detention who are in scope for relocation to Rwanda will be given the appropriate support ahead of departure and provided with information leaflets about what to expect before and after a decision is taken on their relocation. Onsite Home Office staff have been trained on the new process and in addition to regular one-to-one engagement sessions with detained individuals, onsite Home Office staff are holding information surgeries to provide information and answer questions about this process.

Upon arrival, Rwanda will accept physical and legal responsibility for all relocated individuals. We are assured that under this arrangement, Rwanda will process

claims in accordance with the UN Refugee Convention, national and international laws. All relocated individuals will have all their needs looked after while their asylum claims are being considered in Rwanda. Those whose claims are accepted will then be supported to build a new and prosperous life in one of the fastest-growing economies, recognised globally for its record on welcoming and integrating migrants. For those not granted asylum, the Government of Rwanda will still give them opportunity to apply to settle in the country through alternative routes and provide them with the support needed to build a life there. We have agreed governance arrangements – including that an independent monitoring committee will be appointed – to monitor whether assurances as to the safety, security, dignity, and respect for those relocated are being implemented effectively.

Alongside this Partnership, which seeks to disrupt the business model of people-smuggling gangs, the military has taken operational command of responding to small boats in the Channel, in partnership with Border Force. Migrants who cross the Channel will go through initial checks at Western Jet Foil, Dover, before being transferred to a new processing site at Manston, Kent, for further checks. This forms part of the Government's wider plan to tackle illegal migration through the New Plan for Immigration, ramp up cross-government action to prevent dangerous small boats crossings and ultimately save lives.

More information can be found at [Factsheet: Migration and Economic Development Partnership - Home Office in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#) within the [Inadmissibility policy guidance](#), which has been published along with an [Equality Impact Assessment](#) and [Country Policy and Information Notes](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Patel', written over a horizontal line.

**Rt Hon Priti Patel MP**