



Home Office

Immigration Enforcement
Secretariat
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West Midlands
B91 3QJ

Lotte Smith
[request-363914-
ab4cfd1c@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

www.gov.uk/home-office

27 February 2018

Dear Ms Smith

Freedom of Information request – 41371

Thank you for your email of 10 November 2016, in which you ask for information regarding charter flights from Nigeria and Ghana under Operation Majestic. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Specifically you asked:

- 1. Are individuals forcibly removed or deported given money by the UK Home Office? This could refer to either before, during, or upon arrival in the receiving country of enforced removal or deportation. If the amount differs for an enforced removal and a deportation please include this too.*
- 2. It is noted in an Inspection Report of charter flights to Nigeria and Ghana (2013) that the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) offer help with accommodation and finance for up to three weeks after arrival. Is this still a service offered by the IOM in 2016?*
- 3. In the same report of 2013, it is noted that the CIO on board the charter flight arranged a "destitute payment" " for an individual who was concerned that the IOM would provide them with enough money to meet their needs. Please provide the amount of money spent per year on "destitute payments" aboard charter flights to Nigeria and Ghana, from 2010 to 2015. If it is possible to have a breakdown of the amount of money spent on "destitute payments" per each charter flight, please provide this.*
- 4. It is noted in a Inspection Report of a charter flight to Nigeria and Ghana of 2015, that "A member of staff from the British High Commission came onto the aircraft at Lagos and arranged support from local agencies for any who were referred because they had no means of support. She ensured that all detainees had somewhere to stay in the short term and enough money for travel to their home area." Please provide a list of said "local agencies" in Nigeria and Ghana that offer support that the Home Office are aware of and make referrals to.*

Please provide evidence that it is ensured that deportees have somewhere to stay in the short term and enough money for travel to their home area - for example, through evidencing the amount of the money the British High Commission has spent on giving deportees money for travel to their home area, or evidences of referrals to agencies housing deportees/payments made to hotels, hostels etc. in Nigeria or Ghana that have housed deportees in the short term.



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I am able to disclose some of the information requested set out in the enclosed **Annex**.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference 41371. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely

Immigration Enforcement Secretariat



For **question 1**, those criminal offenders who successfully apply for the Facilitated Return Scheme receive a payment from the Home Office. Details of the scheme can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-facilitated-return-scheme-frs>.

The Home Office representative on board charter flights carries a small amount of cash to assist those individuals with difficult onward journeys. The provision of funds is dependant on the individual circumstances of the returnee.

Individuals returning on charter flights to Nigeria who have additional needs may qualify for support provided via the European Reintegration Network. Details of the programme can be found at: <http://erin-iom.belgium.iom.int/>

For **question 2**, the IOM does not currently offer assistance with returnees on charter flights to Nigeria and Ghana.

For **question 3**, the information requested is not captured in our current or historical reports. As such we would need to undertake a manual search of accounting logs to accurately compile this data. We have estimated that to gather and collate the information for the period you have requested would exceed the £600 cost threshold.

Under section 12 of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit. We hold the information which you have requested but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore unable to comply with it.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600. Even if a revised request were to fall within the cost limit, it is possible that other exemptions in the Act might apply.

For **question 4**, it is noted in an Inspection Report of a charter flight to Nigeria and Ghana of 2015 that "A member of staff from the British High Commission came onto the aircraft at Lagos and arranged support from local agencies for any who were referred because they had no means of support. She ensured that all detainees had somewhere to stay in the short term and enough money for travel to their home area."



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Please provide a list of said "local agencies" in Nigeria and Ghana that offer support that the Home Office are aware of and make referrals to.

Please provide evidence that it is ensured that deportees have somewhere to stay in the short term and enough money for travel to their home area - for example, through evidencing the amount of the money the British High Commission has spent on giving deportees money for travel to their home area, or evidences of referrals to agencies housing deportees/payments made to hotels, hostels etc. in Nigeria or Ghana that have housed deportees in the short term.

The British High Commission in Nigeria have representatives present when the charter flight arrives in Lagos and Accra to ensure that the arrival process takes place as planned in a dignified and organised manner. The stakeholder in Nigeria engaged by the High Commission is Mastermind HRSG who implements the 'Ekaabo Ile' (Welcome home) project. Currently they do not provide accommodation or money to returnees but rather telephone assistance, transportation to a central point in Lagos and basic orientation. The project also offers up to two nights accommodation for family returns on scheduled flights.

In Accra, Project Akwaaba, implemented by the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) provides accommodation when required. Currently it is limited to 3 people up to a maximum of two nights, costing around £187.00 overall. The Home Office representative on board charter flights also carries a small amount of cash to assist those individuals with difficult onward journeys.