

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 November 2016 08:21
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Nigeria/Ghana Charter FOI
Importance: High

Thanks [REDACTED]

Actually, the three week accommodation pilot project called the "Nigeria Halfway House" and it ran from 2012 until 2013. It was Implemented by Masterminds HRSG consulting who are also the current Implementers of the "Ekaabo Ile project". The Ebaabo Ile project which support the charter flight operation does not currently provide any accommodation for returnees from the flight. Our reintegration partner can only provide returnees with initial meet and greet services at the reception centre in the airport: this includes basic orientation; information assistance and signposting; urgent telephone services; and transportation up to a central point in Lagos where the returnees can easily make arrangement for their onward journey. We do not give returnees on the charter fight any money at all nor do we have a list of organisations, shelters or hostels that we refer people to. Information given to the returnees by Masterminds is based on need and varies from person to person.

We run another project under the current Reintegration Pathway called the "Special Meet and Greet project". This project is focused on the return of vulnerable categories such as families and children and it does provide accommodation of up to two nights only for special returns usually on scheduled flights. The referrals are usually made by the Home Office Family Returns team. Any specific requests from the Family returns team are considered and special bespoke arrangements can be made under the Special Meet and Greet project for vulnerable persons

The last project we funded through IOM was between 2009 and 2011. The Nigeria Immigration Service was the beneficiary of that project focusing on capacity building, equipping the NIS document Fraud Unit and improving border security at Sokoto/Illela border in the North West of Nigeria. I am also aware that IOM used to support returnees on our Assisted Voluntary Returns programme with the disbursement of their funds at that time. However as a migration team in Nigeria our more recent engagement with IOM in-country has been minimal. Certainly no dealings at all since September 2013.

We are still in the bidding stages of a more general accommodation project under the reintegration pathway for returnees who might need a longer stay accommodation on return, but that proposal has not been approved yet. We will push for this as more request seem to come in for this service. We will let you know if/when that project is actually initiated.

Hope this helps.

[REDACTED]
Projects Officer – Migration Policy
British High Commission
Abuja
Tel: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
www.gov.uk/government/world/nigeria

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 November 2016 12:12
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Nigeria/Ghana Charter FOI

[REDACTED]
See below.

When was the last time we used the IOM to assist returnees? Was there any specific reason we stopped or did the contract simply expire?

I'll draft a response to the second question and pass to you for accuracy.

The third paragraph asking for evidence that we provide accommodation. [REDACTED] as I recall provides accommodation, but I don't think we do for charter returnees in Nigeria.

Best,

[REDACTED]
Migration Delivery Officer
Home Office Immigration Enforcement
British High Commission
26 Thaba Tseka Street
Wuse 2
Abuja
External [REDACTED]
Echo [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2016 17:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Nigeria/Ghana Charter FOI

[REDACTED]
With apologies for the direct approach (I know you have only recently taken up post), RL Charters have received an FOI request that, in the main, asks questions about assistance provided to Nigerian charter returnees after they disembark. Having spoken to Janki previously, I know there were plans to formalise reception assistance (Project Ekaabo) but the FOI request makes specific reference to historical support from IOM. To follow are the questions as they are written and I wondered if you and colleagues in post were able to offer a steer on how to respond:

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?

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.

Very grateful for any information you can provide, apologies again and regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Immigration Inspector
Charters
Returns Logistics

Immigration Enforcement

18th Floor, Lunar House, 40 Wellesley Road, Croydon CR9 2BY

T (Direct):

T: (RL Charters Duty Officer):

F: (faxination)

F:

www.gov.uk/home-office

[REDACTED]