

**NEW ANNEX A - Extension and update of UK-St Helena BIOT Migrants
Memorandum of Understanding**

1. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ('UKG') and the Government of Saint Helena ('SHG') (together 'the Participants' and single 'Participant'), in light of delays with the ratification of the Agreement between UKG and the Government of Mauritius concerning the Chagos Archipelago including Diego Garcia, jointly decide that the arrangements set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between UKG and SHG of 15 October 2024¹ ('the MoU') will continue to have effect until 30 April 2028, subject to the updates and clarifications outlined below. Unless otherwise specified, the arrangements set out in the MoU, including regarding suspension and termination, will continue as originally decided.
2. Upon signature of the cover letter by the Participants, this Annex forms an integral and inextricable part of the MoU, with effect until 30 April 2028.

Updated arrangements

3. UKG, in line with its long-standing commitment to meeting the reasonable needs of and promoting economic development on Saint Helena and its continued commitment to the principle that the arrangements set out in the MoU must not present a financial or resource burden for Saint Helena, confirms that it will make available an additional one-off non-ODA payment of £8 million to SHG for the purposes of supporting St Helena's development, including but, subject to agreement by the Participants, not exclusive to:
 - a. wider delivery of the SHG schools reorganisation and education review, with a focus on securing COBIS accreditation (£2,300,000);
 - b. the purchase of medical equipment and interim support for SHG's work to introduce health standards, with a focus on curbing spending on overseas medical referrals (£2,000,000); and,
 - c. investment in the island's telecommunications and renewable energy networks, with a focus on development of an enabling environment to facilitate longer term economic stability and growth (£3,700,000).
4. On the basis of commitments set out in paragraph 5, UKG will make further funding available (up to £800,000 during Financial Year 2026/27) to support further preparations for future migrant arrivals, including funding for a project manager, the provision of accommodation and upgraded IT systems and processes for the protection of data, paid to SHG upon receipt of relevant invoices. The above-mentioned funding could also potentially facilitate immigration processing work-shadowing to 'train the trainers' in the UK.

¹ MoU for the provision of an arrangement to support the UKG's interest in the welfare of persons who may arrive in future in the British Indian Ocean Territory ('BIOT') who may claim to be unable to return to their country of nationality.

Alongside this, UKG will support capability training for immigration officials, including virtual training.

5. In order to secure the funding set out in paragraph 4, SHG commits to:
 - a. Offer housing for up to twenty-one migrants via private sector rentals throughout the duration of the extension;
 - b. Complete Phase 1 of the conversion of Longwood School into accommodation by the end of October 2026, offering housing for a further nineteen migrants;
 - c. Complete Phase 2 of the conversion of Longwood School into accommodation by the end of November 2026, offering housing for a further twelve migrants;
 - d. Lay before the Legislative Council by the end of July 2026 the Saint Helena Immigration Ordinance;
 - e. Subject to UKG providing additional support for legal drafting, lay before the Legislative Council by the end of November 2026 the Saint Helena Data Protection Ordinance.
6. UKG confirms that there has been no change in UK policy in response to SHG's concerns about the lack of pensions uprating for St Helena residents who have qualified for a state pension from the UK, and UKG do not make any commitment to uprate pensions in future.
7. UKG, recognising Saint Helena's valued place within the British family, further confirms that it will:
 - a. Make a one-off unrestricted ex-gratia payment to SHG of £250,000.
 - b. By summer 2026, review the current healthcare quota referrals system in place between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Overseas Territories including Saint Helena,² consulting SHG as part of this process, including on SHG's desire for a mental health pathway;
 - c. Further explore options to support SHG with training and upskilling staff involved in mental health provision in St Helena;
 - d. UKG commits to engage with St Helena by the end of June 2026, alongside its engagement with other Overseas Territories, on a proposal to extend certain privileges;
 - e. Use all reasonable diplomatic means to raise pharmaceuticals with relevant authorities.

² Set out in §10, [Charging overseas visitors in England: guidance for providers of NHS services](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/charging-overseas-visitors-in-england) - GOV.UK.



8. A separate Annex B to the MoU sets out the interim arrangements in relation to data-sharing.

In the event of migrant arrivals

9. In line with paragraph 5 and principle 7 of the MoU, UKG remains committed to supporting SHG with additional funding in the event of migrants being transferred to Saint Helena, to enable SHG to address migrant arrivals' needs, including to support repatriation and relocation off island as appropriate. This additional funding will last until naturalisation or they are repatriated or relocated off island (up to five years maximum).

10. This additional funding and surge resourcing in the event of migrant arrivals would include, but is not exclusive to, support for:

a. **Basic benefits package:**

- stipends for purchasing food, clothing and necessities commensurate with local social service payments;
- funding for the Government of Saint Helena to arrange bus passes or provide group transport for attendance at orientation meetings or other registration activities.

b. **Day-one needs:**

- food, clothing and toiletries on arrival.

c. **Basic health and social care:**

- funding to meet increased demand on local health services for both emergency and routine medical care, including to enable recruitment of additional medical personnel;
- additional resources for social care services, particularly for supporting unaccompanied migrants.

d. **Medevacs and off island healthcare:**

- Funding and assistance with the arrangement of any required medevacs, including to destinations other than existing routes.

e. **Legal:**

- funding to enable the Public Solicitor's Office to increase capacity to provide legal aid to asylum applicants.

f. **Education** – funding to enable support which may include but is not exclusive to:

- securing English Language teachers for adults to support integration and access to the local job market;
- enabling skills or vocational training, for example to support the social care and construction sector;

- securing an additional teaching assistant or Special Education Needs Coordinator;
- procuring additional school equipment.

Immigration:

- Ongoing HO mentoring for immigration officials, along with funding and UKG support for repatriations and/or relocations, redocumentation of migrants, voluntary returns, and/or removal of migrants who are disruptive, considered a security threat or have complex mental health issues.

g. **Interpretation:**

- two months of in-person interpretation available on arrival on St Helena;
- funding to support ongoing access to remote interpretation and/or to support recruitment of a native speaking liaison officer.

h. **Policing:**

- funding to secure additional resources, including in the event of public unrest or security concerns relating to the BIOT migrant MoU.