



Albania No.2 (2021)

Agreement

between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the Readmission of Persons

Tirana, 8 July 2021

[The Agreement is not in force]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
September 2021*



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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA ON THE
READMISSION OF PERSONS**

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania hereinafter referred to as “a Contracting Party” or “the Contracting Parties” as appropriate,

Desiring to improve co-operation between the two Contracting Parties in order to contribute to the prevention and combating of illegal cross-border migration,

Wishing to facilitate readmission and transiting in cases of expulsion of persons whose entry or residence on the territories of their States is illegal,

Having regard to the need to abide by basic human rights and freedoms, guaranteed by their national legislation and by international agreements in force for the Contracting Parties,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement and the Protocol to this Agreement, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (1) “Residence Permit” means an authorisation of any type issued by one Contracting Party, entitling the person to stay on the territory of that Contracting Party, with the exception of Visas and temporary authorisations for stay issued during examination of an application for a Residence Permit or for asylum.
- (2) “Citizen” and “Citizenship”, in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, refer only to British Citizens and British Citizenship, and in respect of the Republic of Albania refer to Albanian Citizens and Albanian Citizenship.
- (3) “Right of Abode” applies only in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and has the meaning contained in the relevant national legislation.
- (4) “Visa” means an authorisation or decision by a country or territory, including any Contracting Party, to enable a person to enter and remain on the territory of its State, subject to the conditions according to which the Visa was issued being fulfilled.

(5) “Permission to transit” means any authorisation or decision of, or any Visa required by, a Contracting Party to enable a Third Party national to transit through the territory of its State or pass through the transit zone of a port or airport, subject to the other transit conditions being fulfilled.

(6) “Third Party national” means a person who does not have Citizenship of, or the Right of Abode in, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the Republic of Albania, and “Third Party State” means any country or territory other than the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the Republic of Albania.

(7) “Working Day” means any day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in either of the Contracting Parties.

(8) (a) Subject to paragraph (8)(c) below, the “Competent Authorities” in relation to the United Kingdom means:

(i) for the delivery of an application to the Competent Authorities in the Republic of Albania, the acceptance of a reply to a request, for the procedure to obtain a travel document from the Albanian diplomatic-consular representation in the United Kingdom, and for all notifications for persons to be returned to the Republic of Albania:

- The Home Office;

(ii) for the acceptance of an application by the Competent Authorities for the Republic of Albania, for the delivery of a reply to a request and for the delivery of all notifications of persons to be returned to the United Kingdom:

- The Home Office;

(iii) for the issue of passports and other travel documents following a positive reply to the request:

- The Embassy of the United Kingdom in the Republic of Albania.

(b) Subject to paragraph (8)(c) below, the “Competent Authorities” in relation to the Republic of Albania means:

(i) for the delivery of an application to the Competent Authorities in the United Kingdom, the acceptance of a reply to a request, for the procedure to obtain a travel document from the Embassy of the United Kingdom in the Republic of Albania, and for all notifications for persons to be returned to the United Kingdom;

- The General Directorate of State Police in the Ministry of Interior;

- (ii) for the acceptance of an application by the Competent Authorities of the United Kingdom, for the delivery of a reply to a request and for the delivery of all notifications of persons to be returned to the Republic of Albania;

- The General Directorate of State Police in the Ministry of Interior;

- (iii) for the issue of passports and other travel documents following a positive reply to the request:

- The Embassy or consular offices of the Republic of Albania in the United Kingdom.

- (c) Any changes to the definition of “Competent Authorities” of one Contracting Party will be notified to the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels. Any such change will take effect on the Working Day following receipt of such notification by the other Contracting Party.

(9) “Requesting Contracting Party” means a Contracting Party which makes a request to the Requested Contracting Party to readmit a person or permit transiting pursuant to the terms of this Agreement; and “Requested Contracting Party” means the Contracting Party to which such a request is made.

(10) “Child” or “Children” shall mean persons not having attained the age of 18 on the date the request for readmission is made.

(11) “In writing” shall mean in writing in the English language.

PART 1

Readmission of Citizens and Persons with Right of Abode

ARTICLE 2

Duty to readmit

(1) The Requested Contracting Party shall readmit, at the request of the Requesting Contracting Party and without particular formalities, any person who does not meet, or who no longer meets, the requirements for entry or residence on the territory of the State of the Requesting Contracting Party, provided that person is properly identified and it is proven in accordance with paragraph (1) of Article 3 of this Agreement or may be reasonably presumed in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 3 that either the person is a Citizen of, or other person with a Right of abode

in, the Requested Contracting Party, or the person was (on their last entry to the territory of the State of the Requesting Contracting Party) a Citizen of the Requested Contracting Party but has subsequently relinquished their Citizenship and not acquired some other Citizenship or nationality.

(2) A Requesting Contracting Party shall readmit, at the request of the Requested Contracting Party and without particular formalities, any person who formerly departed from the territory of its State in accordance with paragraph (1) of this Article if subsequent checks reveal that at the time of departure that person was not a Citizen of, or other person with a Right of Abode in the Requested Contracting Party. In such a case the Contracting Party which had admitted that person shall return all documents received from the other Contracting Party in connection with the initial readmission. The obligation to readmit under this paragraph shall not apply where the Requested Contracting Party has deprived the person in question of his or her Citizenship or Right of Abode, or the person had relinquished or allowed to lapse his or her Citizenship or Right of Abode, after that person had entered the territory of the State of the Requesting Contracting Party without that person at least having been promised naturalisation by the Requesting Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 3

Means of determining identity and Citizenship of Persons to be readmitted

(1) The identity and Citizenship or Right of Abode of any person to be readmitted pursuant to paragraph (1) of Article 2 of this Agreement, shall be proven through one of the following valid documents:

- (a) a state document of identity (even if provisional or temporary) which can be definitely ascribed to that particular person; or
- (b) a passport or a substitute travel document with a photograph (*laissez passer*) indicating Citizenship and/or possession of the Right of Abode in a Contracting Party; or
- (c) a Child's travel document in lieu of passport; or
- (d) Service record books and military passes.

(2) Identity and Citizenship or Right of Abode may be reasonably presumed by the following:

- (a) a document, provided for in paragraph (1) of this Article, the validity of which has expired but which can be reasonably ascribed to the person;
- (b) any other official document conducive to the identification of the said person (for example a driving licence);

- (c) minuted evidence duly supplied by bona fide witnesses before the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party;
- (d) minuted explanations supplied by the person in question to the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party;
- (e) the language spoken by the person concerned;
- (f) a company pass;
- (g) an extract from the Civil Status Office's records;
- (h) a seaman's book;
- (i) a bargeman's identity document;
- (j) other documents bearing evidence to the identity of the said person;
- (k) photocopies of the above-mentioned documents;

as well as by any other evidence acceptable to both Contracting Parties which may help to establish the Citizenship or Right of Abode of the person concerned.

ARTICLE 4

Requests for readmission

- (1) Any request for readmission under Article 2 of this Agreement shall be made in writing and shall contain information as set out in Article I of the Protocol to this Agreement.
- (2) The request for readmission shall be submitted to the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 5

Reply to the request

- (1) The reply to the request for readmission under Article 2 of this Agreement shall be provided by the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party to the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party according to the procedure and within the time limits set out in Article 6 of the Agreement.
- (2) The reply to the request shall contain information as set out in Article II of the Protocol to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6

Time limits

- (1) Save in respect of those requests founded upon evidence indicated under paragraph (1) of Article 3 of this Agreement, replies to readmission requests made under Article 2 of this Agreement shall be given in writing within fifteen Working Days from the date of submission of the request. Any refusal of readmission shall be substantiated.
- (2) If a request for readmission made under Article 2 of this Agreement is founded on documents indicated under paragraph (1) of Article 3 of this Agreement, a reply shall be given within ten Working Days from the date of submission of the request.
- (3)
 - (a) If the submitted documents and facts are insufficient or contested, the competent Consular Officers of the Requested Contracting Party may demand the Requesting Contracting Party to interview the person concerned within the shortest possible time limit and may attend the interview concerned.
 - (b) The time and place of the interview shall be mutually agreed. The demand for such interview shall be delivered by the Requested Contracting Party within the time limit provided for under paragraph (1) of this Article. The reply to the readmission request shall be given in writing within ten Working Days from the date of interview.
- (4) The Requesting Contracting Party shall take all steps appropriate to ensure removal or departure from the territory of its State of the person whose readmission has been agreed to pursuant to this Agreement within thirty Working Days from the date of receipt of the consent of the Requested Contracting Party. This time limit may be extended for so long as is reasonably necessary to deal with legal or practical obstacles.

PART 2

Readmission of Third Party Nationals

ARTICLE 7

Third Party nationals with Visa or Residence permits

- (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this Article, each Contracting Party shall readmit at the request of the other Contracting Party and without unnecessary formalities any Third Party national who does not fulfil, or no longer fulfils, regulations of entry or residence on the territory of the State of the Requesting Contracting Party, provided he holds a valid Visa or a valid Residence Permit issued by the Requested

Contracting Party and meets the requirements of its national legislation for entry and residence of aliens.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article, in cases in which both Contracting Parties have issued a Visa or a Residence Permit, responsibility shall reside with the Contracting Party whose Visa or Residence Permit expires last.

ARTICLE 8

Third Party nationals who have entered or resided on the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party

(1) Each Contracting Party shall readmit on the territory of its State at the request of the other Contracting Party and without unnecessary formalities any Third Party national, who does not fulfil, or who no longer fulfils the conditions in force for entry or residence on the territory of the State of the Requesting Contracting Party provided it is documented in accordance with paragraph (1) of Article 9 of this Agreement or it may be reasonably presumed in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 9 that such Third Party national had entered or resided on the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party.

(2) No obligation for readmission shall exist under the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article for:

- (a) Third Party nationals to whom the Requesting Contracting Party has granted refugee status under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees done at Geneva on 28 July 1951¹ and the Protocol done at New York on 31 January 1967², supplementing the said Convention, or the status of stateless persons as defined by the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, done at New York on 28 September 1954;³
- (b) Third Party nationals, whose State of Citizenship has a common border with territory of the State of the Requesting Contracting Party, as well as other Third Party nationals residing permanently on the territory of such a Third Party State;
- (c) Third Party nationals whom the Requested Contracting Party has previously returned to their countries of origin or to some other Third Party State into which their entry is assured;
- (d) Third Party nationals who have Permission to transit from the Requested Contracting Party on the basis of a valid Visa or Residence Permit provided by a subsequent State of transit or destination;

¹ Treaty Series No. 39 (1954) Cmd 9171

² Treaty Series No. 15 (1969) Cmnd 3906

³ Treaty Series No. 41 (1960) Cmnd 1098

- (e) Third Party nationals who have Permission to transit from the Requested Contracting Party on the basis that they do not require a Visa or Residence Permit in order to enter or stay in a subsequent State of transit or destination;
- (f) Third Party nationals who after leaving the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party have first entered or resided in the territory of a Third Party State; excepting those persons who have passed through the transit zone; in order to arrive in the territory of the State of the Requesting Contracting Party;
- (g) Third Party nationals who have held a valid Residence Permit issued by the Requesting Contracting Party for a period of more than six months. For the avoidance of doubt, a Residence Permit excludes a Visa and any temporary authorisation for stay issued during examination of an application for a Residence Permit or for asylum.

ARTICLE 9

Presumption of entry or residence

- (1) Entry or residence of Third Party nationals on the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party shall be documented by the apposition of border seals or other appropriate annotations in their travel documents by border control authorities of the Requested Contracting Party, at entry or departure from the territory of its State.
- (2) Entry or residence of Third Party nationals on the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party may be reasonably presumed on the basis of:
 - (a) transport documents;
 - (b) proof of payment for hotel, medical or other services etc;
 - (c) minuted evidence of bona fide witnesses submitted to the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party;
 - (d) minuted evidence given by the Third Party national to the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 10

Request for readmission of Third Party nationals

- (1) A request for readmission of Third Party nationals under Article 7 or 8 of this Agreement shall be submitted in writing and shall contain information as set out in Article IV of the Protocol to this Agreement.
- (2) The request for readmission under paragraph (1) of Article 7 and paragraph (1) of Article 8 of this Agreement shall be submitted to the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party.
- (3) The reply to the request for readmission made under Article 7 or 8 of this Agreement shall be given in writing within fifteen Working Days from the date of its receipt. Any refusal of readmission shall be substantiated.
- (4) The Requesting Contracting Party shall take all steps appropriate to ensure removal or departure from the territory of its State of the person whose readmission has been agreed to pursuant to this Agreement within thirty Working Days from the date of receipt of the consent of the Requested Contracting Party. This time limit may be extended for so long as is reasonably necessary to deal with legal or practical obstacles.

ARTICLE 11

Reply to the request

- (1) The reply to the request for readmission under Article 7 or 8 of this Agreement shall be provided by the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party to the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party according to the procedure and within the time limits set out in Article 10 of this Agreement.
- (2) The reply to the request shall contain information as set out in Article V of the Protocol to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 12

Duty to readmit

- (1) Each Contracting Party shall readmit at the request of the other Contracting Party and without undue formalities, any Third Party national who departed or was removed from the territory of its State in conformity with the provisions of paragraph (1) of Article 7 of this Agreement when subsequent checks reveal that the readmitted person, at the time of departure from the territory of the State of the Requesting Contracting Party was not in possession of a valid Visa or valid Residence Permit

and entitled to enter into and reside in the State of Requested Contracting Party in accordance with Article 7 of this Agreement.

(2) In cases in which the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article are applied, the Contracting Party which initially readmitted such persons shall inform the other Contracting Party of the reasons for their refusal and return all documents received in connection with the initial readmission procedure.

(3) Each Contracting Party shall readmit at the request of the other Contracting Party and without undue formalities, any Third Party national who departed or was removed from the territory of its State in conformity with the provisions of paragraph (1) of Article 8 of this Agreement when subsequent checks reveal that the readmitted person, at the time of departure from the territory of the State of the Requesting Contracting Party, had not in fact entered or resided on the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party in accordance with Article 8 of this Agreement.

(4) In cases in which provisions of paragraph (3) of this Article are applied, the Contracting Party which initially readmitted such persons, shall inform the other Contracting Party of the reasons for their refusal and return all documents received in connection with the initial readmission procedure.

PART 3

Transit

ARTICLE 13

Duty to permit transiting

(1) Each Contracting Party shall permit at the request of the other Contracting Party, transiting through the territory of its State of Third Party nationals removed by the Requesting Contracting Party for the purpose of readmission to their countries of origin or to Third Party States provided that:

- (a) admission to any other States of transit and to the State of destination is assured; and
- (b) the Requesting Contracting Party obtains for the Third Party national any Permission to transit required pursuant to paragraph (2) of Article 13.

(2) The Requested Contracting Party may require that the Requesting Contracting Party obtains, prior to departure of any Third Party national from the territory of the State of the Requesting Contracting Party, any Permission to transit required by the laws or regulations applying from time to time in the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party prior to the transiting through the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party of such Third Party national.

(3) The Requesting Contracting Party shall bear full responsibility for the transiting of such persons to the country of final destination and shall be responsible for those persons' removal from the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party if their onward journey cannot be continued.

(4) The Requested Contracting Party may request that a representative of the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party secure the escort of such transiting Third Party nationals during the transit through the territory of the Requested Contracting Party.

(5) Notwithstanding any authorisation issued, persons taken in charge for transit purposes shall be readmitted by the Requesting Contracting Party without formality if circumstances within the meaning of Article 21 of this Agreement subsequently arise or come to light which stand in the way of a transit operation or if the onward journey or admission by the State of destination is no longer assured.

(6) The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to restrict transit operations to Third Party nationals who cannot be returned to their State of destination directly.

ARTICLE 14

Requests for transiting

(1) Any requests to permit transiting under Article 13 of this Agreement shall be made in writing and shall contain information as set out in Article VI of the Protocol to this Agreement.

(2) The requests to permit transiting shall be dispatched directly between the Competent Authorities of the Contracting Parties.

(3) The request shall be signed and sealed by the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 15

Reply to the request

(1) The reply to the request to permit transiting under Article 14 of this Agreement shall be provided by the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party to the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party in writing within fifteen Working Days from the date of submission of the request. Any refusal of a request to permit transiting shall be substantiated.

(2) The reply to the request shall contain information as set out in Article VII of the Protocol to this Agreement.

(3) Pursuant to paragraph (2) of Article 13, when accepting a request to permit transiting, the Requested Contracting Party may state that its acceptance is conditional on Permission to transit being obtained by the Third Party national prior to departure from the territory of the State of the Requesting Contracting Party in order to transit through the territory of its State.

ARTICLE 16

Refusal of request

Under this Agreement, a request for transiting under Article 13 of this Agreement may be refused where:

- (a) the Third Party national's presence in the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party may not be conducive to the interests of national security, public order or public health; or
- (b) the Third Party national does not obtain any Permission to transit required by the Requested Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph (2) of Article 13; or
- (c) the Third Party national is refused any Permission to transit required by the Requested Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph (2) of Article 13.

PART 4

General and Final Provisions

ARTICLE 17

Committee of experts

- (1) The Contracting Parties shall provide each other with mutual assistance in the application and interpretation of this Agreement. To this end they may set up a Committee of Experts as set out in Article XII of the Protocol to this Agreement.
- (2) The Contracting Parties reserve the right to accept the proposals and measures suggested by the Committee of Experts or not to do so.

ARTICLE 18

Escorts

- (1) (a) The Requesting Contracting Party shall, whenever reasonably practicable, inform the Requested Contracting Party of the need for escort of persons whose readmission or transiting has been agreed to under the terms of this Agreement.
 - (b) When escort services are provided by, or under the direction of, the Requesting Contracting Party, the escorting officers shall be required to obtain any authorisation, Visa or Permission to transit required by the Requested Contracting Party in order to carry out such escort services prior to departure from the territory of the Requesting Contracting Party.
- (2) When transiting is carried through airport transfers on the territory of the Requested Contracting Party or through entries onto its territory, escorting arrangements shall be made where appropriate by the Requesting Contracting Party and the Requested Contracting Party shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that the person who is subject to the transit will not be allowed to leave the transit zone of the airport of the Requested Contracting Party.
- (3) When removals for the purpose of readmission or transiting are carried out, escorting arrangements shall be made where appropriate by the Requesting Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 19

Costs of return

- (1) The costs related to the readmission of persons, including those for appropriate escorting, subsistence and transportation, in accordance with Articles 2, 7 and 8 of this Agreement, shall be borne by the Requesting Contracting Party.
- (2) The costs of transit, in accordance with Article 13 of this Agreement, as far as the border of the State of destination and, where necessary, the costs arising from return transport, in both cases including the costs of escorting, subsistence and transportation, shall be borne by the Requesting Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 20

Notification

Prior to the entry into force of this Agreement the Contracting Parties shall notify each other through diplomatic channels about:

- (a) border control points which may be used for readmission purposes and transit passages;
- (b) the authorities competent to deal with readmission and transit requests under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 21

Other Agreements not affected and exceptions

(1) The provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the Contracting Parties' rights and duties under:

- (a) other international agreements on extradition, transfer of convicted persons, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and readmission or transit conveyance in cases of removal of persons generally;
- (b) the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva on 28 July 1951 as amended by the Protocol done at New York on 31 January 1967;
- (c) any international agreements on human rights;
- (d) international agreements on asylum;
- (e) any other international agreements.

(2) In relation to:

- (a) a person whom a Contracting Party has a duty to readmit pursuant to paragraph (1) of Article 2 of this Agreement; and
- (b) a Third Party national who has entered directly from the territory of the State of one Contracting Party to the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party (and a person will be considered as having entered directly if he has transited through a Third Party State for the purpose of entering the other Contracting Party without leaving any port or airport transit zone and without passing through immigration control);

the provisions of this Agreement shall not operate so as to prejudice other arrangements which apply from time to time in the territory of a Contracting Party by which a person may be deported or otherwise removed from the territory of a Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 22

Modalities of implementation

All further provisions for implementation are set out in the Protocol to this Agreement which is an integral part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 23

Territorial application

This Agreement shall apply:

1. In relation to the United Kingdom:
 - a. to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
 - b. to the territory of Gibraltar; and
 - c. to any territory for the international relations of which the United Kingdom is responsible and to which this Agreement shall have been extended by an exchange of notes. Such extension may be terminated by either Contracting Party by giving six months' written notice to the other through the diplomatic channel.
2. To the Republic of Albania.

ARTICLE 24

Entry into force

- (1) Each Contracting Party shall notify the other in writing, through diplomatic channels, of the completion of the domestic legal procedures required by its laws for the entry into force of this Agreement.
- (2) This Agreement shall enter into force on:
 - (a) the date of the later of the Contracting Parties' notifications that they have completed their domestic legal procedures.

ARTICLE 25

Duration, Modification, Suspension and Termination

- (1) This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period.

(2) Each Contracting Party may terminate this Agreement by giving notification in writing to the other. Such termination shall take effect on the thirtieth day following receipt of written notification by the other Contracting Party or on some later date as specified in the notification.

(3) Each Contracting Party may suspend this Agreement by giving notification in writing to the other, where it considers that there are reasonable grounds to do so.

(i) Such suspension shall take effect on the thirtieth day following receipt of written notification by the other Contracting Party or on some later date as specified in the notification.

(ii) The Contracting Parties may agree to cancel the suspension of the Agreement anytime following the sending of a notification up until the date the suspension takes effect.

(iii) Where the Agreement is suspended and the suspending Contracting Party wishes to lift the suspension, it shall notify the other Contracting Party in writing without delay via diplomatic channels. The suspension will be lifted on the thirtieth day following receipt of the notification by the other Contracting Party, or on a date the Contracting Parties otherwise agree.

(4) The Contracting Parties may agree in writing to amend this Agreement. An amendment shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the later of the Contracting Parties' notifications that they have completed their internal procedures, or on such date as the Contracting Parties may agree.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at Tirana on this 8th day of July 2021 in the English and Albanian languages. In case of any inconsistency between the English and Albanian texts, the English text shall prevail.

**For the Government of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland:**

**For the Council of Ministers of the
Republic of Albania:**

PRITI PATEL

BLEDAR CUCI

**PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA ON THE READMISSION
OF PERSONS**

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania (hereinafter called “the Contracting Parties”);

Wishing to make provision for the implementation of the Agreement signed at Tirana on 8th July 2021 concerning the Readmission of Persons hereinafter called “the Agreement”;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

Request for readmission of persons under Article 2 of the Agreement

(1) Any request for readmission under Article 2 of the Agreement shall be made in writing and shall contain:

- (a) The name and address of the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party, file number and date of the request;
- (b) The name and address of the Requested Contracting Party;
- (c) An introductory text, as follows: “There are grounds for believing that the person identified below is covered by the provisions of Article 2 of the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the Readmission of Persons and we request that this person is accepted into the territory of (the United Kingdom) (the Republic of Albania) in accordance with the provisions of that Agreement.”

(2) The following shall be provided with any request for readmission:

- (a) Personal data
 - (i) family name and other names;
 - (ii) date of birth;
 - (iii) place and country of birth;

- (iv) sex;
 - (v) for children only, the family name and other name(s) of any relation of which the Requesting Contracting Party is aware.
- (b) Certified copies of original documents constituting means of proof, or means for establishing a presumption of, Citizenship or Right of Abode of the person to be returned:
- (i) Citizenship or state identity documents: number, date and place of issue, issuing authority; or
 - (ii) passport: type and number, date of issue, issuing authority and place of issue; or
 - (iii) any other travel document indicating Citizenship: name of document, number, date and place of issue and issuing authority; or
 - (iv) other documents providing a means of establishing a presumption to be accepted by the Requested Contracting Party as provided in paragraph (2) of Article 3 of the Agreement eg driver's licence, birth certificate etc.
- (c) 2 passport format photographs.
- (d) A list of the means of proof and/or means of establishing a presumption that has been provided in accordance with the Agreement.
- (e) Planned itinerary, means of transport, date and time of planned readmission, points of border entry.
- (f) Instructions regarding the necessity of police or other escort and/or medical supervision wherever reasonably practicable; and if the escort is to be provided by the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party, particulars of the officers escorting the person.
- (g) Statement that the person in question conforms with the requirements of Article 2 of the Agreement.
- (h) Signature and seal of the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party.
- (3) The following shall also be provided wherever reasonably available:
- (a) Personal Data
 - (i) full name of the father and/or mother;

- (ii) previous names;
 - (iv) pseudonym or alias;
 - (v) last address in the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party;
 - (v) data relating to health, and in Latin the name of any contagious disease from which the person to be returned may be suffering.
- (b) In relation to children, certified copy of birth certificate.

ARTICLE II

Reply to the request for readmission of persons under Article 2 of the Agreement

- (1) The reply to the request for readmission under Article 2 of the Agreement shall be provided by the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party to the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party according to the procedure and within the time limits set out in Article 6 of the Agreement.
- (2) The Reply to the request shall contain:
- (a) name and address of the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party, file number and date of the reply to the request;
 - (b) name and address of the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party;
 - (c) family name and other name(s) of the person to be returned, date of birth, place of birth and country of birth where available; and
 - (d) either (i) in the case of a positive reply, confirmation that the person to be returned falls under the provisions of Article 2 of the Agreement; or (ii) in case of a negative reply, the reasons why the person does not fall under the provisions of Article 2 of the Agreement.

ARTICLE III

Travel document

- (1) The Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party shall forward to the diplomatic or consular representation of the Requested Contracting Party the positive reply to the request with a view to the issue of a travel document where this is necessary. The diplomatic-consular representation of the Requested Contracting

Party shall on the basis of the positive reply to the request issue a travel document within three working days wherever possible, and in any event not later than five working days, after the positive reply for the person whose return has been accepted.

(2) The travel document shall be valid for use for a period not exceeding thirty days from the date of receipt by the Requesting Contracting Party, or such other period as may be agreed in accordance with paragraph (4) of Article 6 or paragraph (4) of Article 10 of the Agreement.

ARTICLE IV

Request for readmission of Third Party nationals

(1) Any request for readmission under Articles 7 or 8 of the Agreement shall be made in writing and shall contain:

- (a) The name and address of the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party, file number and date of the request;
- (b) The name and address of the Requested Contracting Party;
- (c) An introductory text, as follows: “There are grounds for believing that the person identified below is covered by the provisions of Article 7 (or 8 as appropriate) of the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the Readmission of Persons and we request that this person is accepted into the territory of (the United Kingdom)(the Republic of Albania) in accordance with the provisions of that Agreement.”

(2) The following shall be provided with any request for readmission:

- (a) Personal data
 - (i) family name and other names;
 - (ii) date of birth;
 - (iii) place and country of birth;
 - (iv) sex;
 - (v) for children only, the family name and other name(s) of any relation of which the Requesting Contracting Party is aware.
- (b) Certified copies of original documents constituting means of proof, or means for establishing a presumption, of possession of a valid Visa or

valid Residence Permit issued by the Competent Authorities of the Requested Contracting Party and qualification to enter and reside under that Contracting Party's national legislation of the person to be returned as follows:

- (i) Citizenship or state identity documents including valid Visa correspondence document: number, date and place of issue, issuing authority; or
 - (ii) passport including valid Visa or Residence Permit: type and number, date of issue, issuing authority and place of issue; or
 - (iii) any other travel document indicating Citizenship and including valid Visa or Residence Permit: name of document, number, date and place of issue and issuing authority; or
 - (iv) Certified copies of original documents constituting means of proof, or means for establishing a presumption of, entry or residence on the territory of the Requested Contracting Party as set out in Article 9 of the Agreement.
- (c) 2 passport format photographs.
 - (d) A list of the means of proof and/or means of establishing a presumption that has been provided in accordance with the Agreement.
 - (e) Planned itinerary, means of transport, date and time of planned readmission, points of border entry.
 - (f) Instructions regarding the necessity of police or other escort and/or medical supervision wherever reasonably practicable; and if the escort is to be provided by the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party, particulars of the officers escorting the person.
 - (g) Statement that the person in question conforms with the requirements of Article 7 (or 8 as appropriate) of the Agreement.
 - (h) Signature and seal of the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party.
- (3) The following shall also be provided wherever reasonably available:
- (a) Personal Data
 - (i) full name of the father and/or mother;
 - (ii) previous names;

- (iii) pseudonym or alias;
 - (iv) last address in the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party;
 - (v) data relating to health, and in Latin the name of any contagious disease from which the person to be returned may be suffering.
- (b) In relation to children, certified copy of birth certificate.

ARTICLE V

Reply to the request for readmission of Third Party nationals

- (1) The reply to the request for readmission under Article 7 (or 8 as appropriate) of the Agreement shall be provided by the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party to the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party according to the procedure and within the time limits set out in Article 10 of the Agreement.
- (2) The reply to the request shall contain:
- (a) name and address of the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party, file number and date of the reply to the request;
 - (b) name and address of the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party;
 - (c) family name and other name(s) of the person to be returned, date of birth, place of birth and country of birth where available; and
 - (d) either (i) in the case of a positive reply, confirmation that the person to be returned falls under the provisions of Article 7 (or 8 as appropriate) of the Agreement; or, (ii) in case of a negative reply, the reasons why the person does not fall under the provisions of Article 7 (or 8 as appropriate) of the Agreement.

ARTICLE VI

Request to permit transiting

- (1) Any request to permit transiting under Article 13 of the Agreement shall be made in writing and shall contain:
- (a) The name and address of the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party, file number and date of the request;

- (b) The name and address of the Requested Contracting Party;
 - (c) An introductory text, as follows: “There are grounds for believing that the person identified below is covered by the provisions of Article 13 of the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the Readmission of Persons and we request that transit of this person through the territory of (the United Kingdom)(the Republic of Albania) is permitted in accordance with the provisions of that Agreement.”
- (2) The following shall be provided with any request for permission to transit:
- (a) Personal data
 - (i) family name and other names;
 - (ii) date of birth;
 - (iii) place and country of birth;
 - (iv) sex;
 - (v) for children only, the family name and other name(s) of any relation of which the Requesting Contracting Party is aware.
 - (b) Certified copies of original documents constituting means of proof, or means for establishing a presumption that the Third Party national’s acceptance in any other states of transit and the state of destination is assured.
 - (c) 2 passport format photographs.
 - (d) A list of the means of proof and/or means of establishing a presumption that has been provided in accordance with the Agreement.
 - (e) Planned itinerary, means of transport, date and time of planned readmission, points of border entry.
 - (f) Instructions regarding the necessity of police or other escort and/or medical supervision wherever reasonably practicable; and if the escort is to be provided by the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party, particulars of the officers escorting the person.
 - (g) Statement that the person in question conforms with the requirements of Article 13 of the Agreement.

- (h) Signature and seal of the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party.
- (3) The following shall also be provided wherever reasonably available:
- (a) Personal Data
 - (i) full name of the father and/or mother;
 - (ii) previous names;
 - (iii) pseudonym or alias;
 - (iv) last address in the territory of the State of the Requested Contracting Party;
 - (v) data relating to health, and in Latin the name of any contagious disease from which the person to be returned may be suffering.
 - (b) In relation to children, certified copy of birth certificate.

ARTICLE VII

Reply to the request to permit transiting

- (1) The reply to the request to permit transiting under Article 13 of the Agreement shall be provided by the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party to the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party according to the procedure and within the time limits set out in Article 15 of the Agreement.
- (2) The reply to the request shall contain:
- (a) name and address of the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party, file number and date of the reply to the request;
 - (b) name and address of the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party;
 - (c) family name and other name(s) of the person to be returned, date of birth, place of birth and country of birth where available; and either (i) in the case of a positive reply, confirmation that the person to be transited through the territory of the Requested Contracting Party falls under the provisions of Article 13 of the Agreement (specifying if appropriate that this is conditional on a Permission to transit being obtained by the Third Party national prior to departure from the territory of the Requesting Contracting Party in order to transit through its territory pursuant to paragraph (3) of Article 15 of the Agreement); or, (ii) in case of a negative

reply, the reasons why the Third Party national does not fall under the provisions of Article 13 of the Agreement.

ARTICLE VIII

Procedure for take-over

(1) The Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party shall notify the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party of the removal or departure of the person to be returned, or transited through the territory of the Requested Contracting Party, at least five working days in advance of the planned removal or departure.

(2) This notification shall be in writing and shall contain the following data:

- (a) name and address of the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party, file number and date of notification;
- (b) name and address of the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party;
- (c) an introductory text, as follows: "We notify you that on (day, month and year) from the airport () by flight no. (), departure time () and arriving at the airport () at () hrs, the person identified below will be returned to (the United Kingdom)(the Republic of Albania)"; or "We notify you that on (day, month and year) from the airport () by flight no. (), departure time () and arriving at airport () at ()hrs, the person identified below will be transiting through (the United Kingdom)(the Republic of Albania) to () by flight no. (), departure time () and arriving at the airport () at ()hrs";
- (d) family name and other name(s), date of birth and place of birth of the person to be returned, file number and date of the reply to the request for readmission;
- (e) indication of eventual dependency on assistance etc, due to illness or age;
- (f) indication whether incidents might be expected, with a view to providing for official escort.

(3) In any case where the Competent Authority of the Requesting Contracting Party cannot return the person to be returned on the date as set out in the notification, it shall immediately inform the Competent Authority of the Requested Contracting Party in writing of that fact.

ARTICLE IX

Border posts

The return of a person under the Agreement shall take place at the following border posts:

- (a) in the United Kingdom at any airport used for international commercial flights;
- (b) in the Republic of Albania at Rinas International airport.

ARTICLE X

Costs

(1) Costs within Article 19 of the Agreement to be paid by the Requesting Contracting Party include (but shall not be limited to) reasonable costs pertaining to the issue of travel documents to the person to be returned or transited and the total costs of air transport and of any necessary escort.

(2) For any additional costs, the Requested Contracting Party shall provide an invoice to the Competent Authorities of the Requesting Contracting Party within fifteen working days of readmission, or departure in cases of transit. All costs shall be paid to the diplomatic-consular representation of the Requested Contracting Party within thirty days of receipt of such invoice, or, in the case of the Republic of Albania, to the Competent Authority where it has issued such invoice.

ARTICLE XI

Data protection

1) Each Contracting Party shall not use, disclose or store any information shared pursuant to this Agreement for any purpose except for the purposes set out in this Agreement.

2) Competent Authorities may, for the purpose of processing requests, returns and readmission under this Agreement, disclose information received under this Agreement to other domestic authorities responsible for pursuing the same purpose as they carry out their official duties as required by and/or permissible under their domestic law.

3) Each Contracting Party shall ensure that security classification and any restrictions, conditions or special handling instructions are adequately marked on all information shared pursuant to this Agreement. To prevent the unauthorised disclosure, copying, use, modification or disposal of information received under this

Agreement, Each Contracting Party shall restrict access to the information to those who need it in the course of carrying out their official duties for the purpose of processing requests, returns and readmissions under this Agreement and to use recognised security mechanisms such as passwords, encryption, or other reasonable safeguards to prevent unauthorised access. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that all persons authorised to have access to information received under this Agreement are appropriately trained on the handling and usage restrictions which apply to this information and intend to safeguard the information in a manner consistent with this Agreement.

4) Each Contracting Party shall notify the other of any accidental or unauthorised access, use, disclosure, modification or disposal of information received under this Agreement as quickly as possible after becoming aware of the security or privacy breach and, where possible, provide to the other all necessary details of the accidental or unauthorised access, use, disclosure, modification or disposal of that information as soon as practicable.

5) Each Contracting Party shall provide to the other the most current and accurate information available. In the event that either becomes aware that information being relied upon is inaccurate, it shall notify the other immediately and provide correcting information, where available. When a Contracting Party receives correcting information, that Party shall correct, annotate or dispose of inaccurate information, and any information derived from it, in accordance with its domestic laws.

6) Each Contracting Party confirms that it has in place a system by which individuals may request information about themselves that was shared under this Agreement, and, where that information is disclosable to the individual, may request a correction of that information. Each Contracting Party confirms that it has a system in place through which individuals may seek to redress or challenge a decision not to disclose their personal information to them.

7) Each Contracting Party shall assess the continued relevance of the information received under this Agreement and dispose of the information securely when it is no longer relevant in accordance with its domestic laws.

8) Either Contracting Party may request assurance from the other that sufficient policy, legal or technical safeguards are being maintained with regard to the information shared under this agreement and may request a review of the safeguards.

9) The Contracting Parties shall review the data sharing arrangements under this agreement. The first review shall take place not earlier than one year from the date of the entry into force of this Agreement, and not later than 5 years from the date of its entry into force, and as the Parties mutually decide thereafter.

ARTICLE XII

Committee of Experts

- (1) The Committee of Experts established pursuant to Article 17 of the Agreement shall consist of representatives of each of the Contracting Parties. Each Contracting Party shall appoint a chief expert and up to 2 members to serve on the Committee. A chairperson will be appointed by the chief expert (or a person nominated by the chief expert) of whichever Contracting Party is hosting the meeting. Expert non-members of the Committee may be invited by a chief expert (or a person nominated by a chief expert) to sessions of the Committee.
- (2) The Competent Authorities of the Contracting Parties shall notify within thirty days of the signing of the Agreement to the Competent Authorities of the other Contracting Party the names of their representatives on the Committee of Experts.
- (3) The Competent Authorities of the Contracting Parties shall notify within thirty days to the Competent Authorities of the other Contracting Party any changes to the composition of their representation on the Committee of Experts.
- (4) Among the tasks of the Committee of Experts shall be:
 - (a) the submission of proposals to the Competent Authorities of the Contracting Parties in order to resolve possible and practical questions that have arisen in the implementation of the Agreement;
 - (b) making proposals to the Competent Authorities of the Contracting Parties concerning amendments and additions to the Agreement;
 - (c) monitoring application of the Agreement; and
 - (d) preparation and recommendation of appropriate measures for combating illegal immigration generally.
- (5) The Contracting Parties reserve the right to approve proposals by the Committee of Experts or not to do so.
- (6) The Committee shall meet at the proposal of one of the chief experts.

ARTICLE XIII

Status of the Protocol

This Protocol is an integral part of the Agreement.

ARTICLE XIV

Territorial application

This Protocol shall apply:

- (a) in relation to the United Kingdom:
 - (i) to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland;
 - (ii) to the territory of Gibraltar; and
 - (iii) to any territory for the international relations of which the United Kingdom is responsible and to which this Protocol shall have been extended, subject to any modifications agreed, by agreement between the Contracting Parties. Such extension may be terminated by either Contracting Party by giving six months' written notice to the other through the diplomatic channel; and
- (b) to the Republic of Albania.

ARTICLE XV

Entry into force

This Protocol shall enter into force upon the entry into force of the Agreement.

ARTICLE XVI

Duration, Modification, Suspension and Termination

(1) This Protocol is concluded for an indefinite period. If a Contracting Party suspends or terminates the Agreement in accordance with Article 25 of the Agreement, this Protocol shall too be suspended or terminated accordingly, with such suspension or termination taking effect at the same time as the Agreement.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

Done in duplicate at Tirana, this 8th July 2021 in the English and Albanian languages. In case of any inconsistency between the English and Albanian texts, the English text shall be the authentic text.

**For the Government of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland:**

**For the Council of Ministers of the
Republic of Albania:**

PRITI PATEL

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