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FOURTH REPORT OF THE QUALITY INITIATIVE

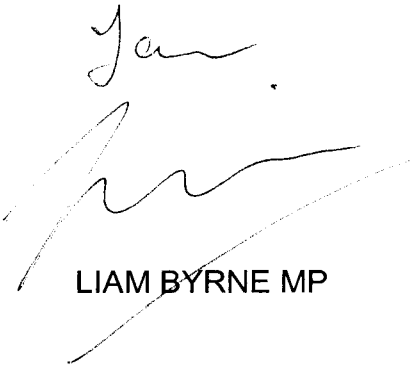
Thank you for your letter of 2nd February, enclosing UNHCR's fourth report on the Quality Initiative.

I must start by thanking you and your colleagues for your valuable assistance in helping us to improve the quality of asylum decisions. I know that you have made a real impact on the work we have undertaken within the Asylum Casework Directorate (ACD) and, more recently, within the New Asylum Model (NAM) to ensure that caseworkers and NAM Case Owners are fully equipped to deal with the important task of deciding asylum claims.

I welcome your report and I am pleased to note that this commends a number of our initiatives which aim to improve the quality of decisions. I am pleased that you share our view that we have made significant progress. While it is inevitably the case that your recommendations may not have been implemented to the letter, the concerns you raised in your earlier reports have been addressed, in particular, through a range of initiatives within the New Asylum Model.

We acknowledge that there is further work to be done. I am pleased that there is a continuing and constructive dialogue between your team and officials in NAM and the ACD, which will help to address the concerns expressed in your report. We are particularly keen to continue the constructive partnership with

the New Asylum Model Quality Team and to provide a forum for addressing issues of mutual concern.



LIAM BYRNE MP