

—In confidence for committee use only—

DRAFT LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THE ROHINGYA FOLLOW-UP EVIDENCE

Dear Ann Marie,

We are grateful for your response to our written Q&A session on the Rohingya in lieu of an oral evidence session.

We welcome the support the Government has provided to the humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar, including £256 million funding since the start of the crisis and measures taken to press Myanmar for accountability for atrocities committed in that country.

We would be grateful if you could provide further written evidence to provide clarification on the following points:

You mention the Bangladesh authorities are building fences around the Rohingya camps which affects the humanitarian response and isolates the Rohingya.

1. What representations has the UK Government made to the Government of Bangladesh about that issue to date?

You told us you have already allocated around £10 million to support Covid19 preparedness efforts in the Rohingya camps and surrounding host communities.

2. Please can you tell us whether that funding is in addition to funding previously announced and how it will be allocated?

You told us you are implementing a Myanmar Government/civil society pilot, to test novel and innovative approaches for re-distributing and registering land. The project aims to provide the Myanmar authorities with the right tools to address land tenure issues, particularly for VFV.

3. This indicates you are still cooperating with the Government of Myanmar on development programmes. Please can you update us on the current processes in place to ensure that DFID funded programmes are not in effect legitimising/bolstering a Government of Myanmar that continues to fail to protect its ethnic minorities.

You told us the UK plans to continue to fund the Joint Peace Fund through the CSSF and is discussing options with fund members to pivot funding to focus on COVID-19. Due to the outbreak, the Government and ethnic armed groups have delayed peace talks to the end of April and it is likely this will be delayed further.

4. We would be grateful if you could set out what progress the peace process has made since our predecessor Committee last took evidence on this in September 2018.

5. Are you considering shifting funding from any other programmes in Myanmar to Covid19 preparedness in the short-term?