



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Vicky Ford MP

Minister for Africa, Latin America and
the Caribbean

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Tel: 020 7008 5000

Email:

FCDO.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/fcdo

Sarah Champion MP
Chair of the International Development
Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 April 2022

Dear Sarah,

Publication of the provisional SID 2021: Accountability requirements of IDA 2015

The provisional Statistics on International Development (SID) 2021 is due for publication on Tuesday 12 April, which will set out the provisional UK ODA and UK ODA as a proportion of GNI figures for 2021. I am writing in advance of publication to inform you of the accountability mechanism set out in the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015.

In November 2020, my Rt Hon Friend the Deputy Prime Minister and former Foreign Secretary set out that the UK would temporarily reduce the aid budget from 0.7% of GNI to 0.5%, as a result of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the UK's economy. The government intends to return to spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA as soon as the fiscal situation allows; when on a sustainable basis the government is not borrowing for day-to-day spending and underlying debt is falling.

While it is expected that the publication of the provisional SID 2021 will be the first official release confirming the UK has not met the legislative commitment of 0.7%, it is not the trigger of the accountability mechanism set out in the 2015 Act. That Act requires the Secretary of State to lay a statement before Parliament if the 0.7% target is not met and is triggered by the laying of an annual report confirming it has not been met. The annual report referred to is the FCDO's Annual Report and Accounts, which will be laid in Parliament before the summer recess.

As required by the 2015 Act, after the FCDO's Annual Report and Accounts is laid before Parliament ahead the summer recess, the Foreign Secretary will lay a statement before Parliament explaining why the 0.7% target has not been met.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Ford MP
Minister for Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean