



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

**Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP**  
Secretary of State for Foreign,  
Commonwealth and Development Affairs

King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH  
**Tel: 0207 008 5000**

Baroness Anelay of St Johns  
House of Lords  
London, Westminster  
SW1A 0PW

13 May 2022

Dear Lady Anelay,

Thank you for your letter of 7 February, regarding gender equality in UK aid spending.

As I am sure you are aware, the International Development Committee published a copy of the 2021/22 Equalities Assessment on 8 March. However, I still wanted to respond to your joint letter with the Chair of the International Development Committee. It remains my view that if we were to publish all Equalities Assessments, it would have a chilling effect on the candour of advice prepared by officials.

I am grateful for the work your Committee does and recognise the vital role you play in scrutinising the Government's international development policies. Following the Spending Review in October 2021, we will set out aid allocations in due course. I am pleased to be restoring funding to women and girls to pre ODA cuts levels after only one year. We will also step up funding to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance and prevent the worst forms of human suffering. As in previous years, your Committee will receive the Annual Report and Accounts and the Estimates and accompanying Memoranda to facilitate your scrutiny of the UK aid budget.

Thank you again for your letter and your commitment to gender equality through our international development work. I look forward to working closely with your Committee on this shared ambition.

Yours Sincerely,

**THE RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP**  
**Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Secretary**