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DG Fin (182 2020)

Meg Hillier MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee

Dear Chair,

Assessment of the Effectiveness of Official Development Assistance (ODA) Expenditure

I am writing in response to Recommendation 4 of the 117th Report of Session 2017-19. The recommendation is shown below for completeness:

Recommendation 4: “All ODA spending departments should report back to us in 6 months’ time on the extent to which they will increase the proportion of their ODA-funded programmes that use performance measures based on impacts and outcomes.”

As requested in the Public Accounts Committee report on the effectiveness of Official Development Assistance expenditure, I am writing to update the Committee on the extent to which MOD will increase the proportion of ODA programmes that use performance measures based on impacts and outcomes.

MOD ODA expenditure, which primarily comprises various eligible aspects of Defence education and training, aims to support development outcomes by contributing to the ability of the recipient nations to manage in a more effective and responsible manner security challenges which may hold back economic development.

As you will be aware, the majority of Defence activity is not eligible to be reported as ODA, and our ODA expenditure represents only around 0.01% of the Defence budget. Our ODA expenditure thus sits alongside much broader programmes of non-ODA Defence Engagement activity, and we have existing processes in place which assess the impact of the full range of Defence Engagement activity on Defence and wider government objectives, including those which support development.

CHARLIE PATE