



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Rt Hon James Cleverly
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The Rt Hon Lord Ashton of Hyde,
Chair, International Relations and Development Committee
House of Lords
London
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9 March 2023

Dear Lord Ashton,

Update on FCDO structures

I am writing to update the committee on changes to the FCDO's senior structure.

I have discussed with the Permanent Under-Secretary, Sir Philip Barton, and have agreed with his proposal to recruit a second Permanent Under-Secretary to focus on international development priorities and the implementation of the International Development Strategy. Together, we are determined to secure the UK's position as a global leader in international development. Enhancing the FCDO's senior leadership structure in this way will further bolster our development effort and will ensure we are able to carry out our vitally important work to tackle global challenges and to address the root causes of instability around the world as effectively as possible.

The Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service, Sir Philip Barton, remains the senior officer accountable to Parliament and will oversee the successful candidate ensuring development remains a priority for the whole of FCDO.

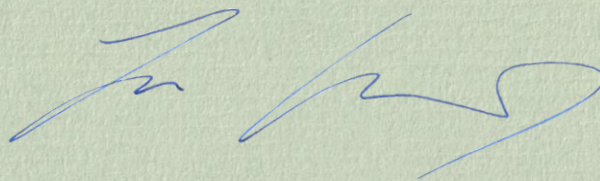
In terms of specific responsibilities, I have agreed with the Permanent Under-Secretary, that the Second Permanent Under-Secretary will:

- Implement the [International Development Strategy](#), providing senior leadership to the development community and working across the whole Department and with our partners, focusing on areas with the biggest development responsibilities, challenges and risks.
- Act as Accounting Officer for ODA programmes, in parallel with the Permanent Under-Secretary, as the Principal Accounting Officer, including prioritisation and oversight of development programmes.

- Lead on all development-related and risk-related governance arrangements, including relevant management board sub-committees.

Recruitment will commence shortly and I am confident that the new senior leadership structure will bolster the UK's international development efforts and help to accelerate progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Cleverly', written in a cursive style.

The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Secretary