



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

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Theo Clarke MP  
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6 November 2020

Dear Theo

Thank you for your letter of 21 October.

You will have seen that also on 21 October, the Chancellor announced that the Spending Review would now conclude in late November. In light of the decision to move to a one-year Spending Review the implications for the completion of the Integrated Review are now being considered.

As you state in your letter, questions 2 a), 2 b), 3 and 4 will be influenced by the outcomes of both the Spending Review and the Integrated Review. I am keen to answer your questions as far as possible now but note that fuller responses will only be possible after the conclusions of these two processes.

*2. a) Following the merger, will the FCDO take on the role previously undertaken by DFID to support other departments with their aid expenditure and learning on best aid management practice? and*

*b) Will the FCDO be given additional resources and formal powers to oversee other departments' performance against good practice standards?*

As part of the Spending Review, HM Treasury has been reviewing the future ODA monitoring framework and will consider how government can improve its assessment of the value for money and effectiveness of development spending. The former DFID business case process required teams to set out evidence that the option chosen was the best value for money for delivering specified impacts and outcomes, and to describe the systems in place for ensuring value for money is delivered in practice. The FCDO will work with other government departments to share best practice for doing this, as DFID has done in the past.



Through the Integrated Review and the Spending Review, HM Treasury, working closely with FCDO, will seek to strengthen the governance and overall effectiveness of ODA across government. The FCDO will take on the former DFID responsibilities on the administration of ODA, alongside HM Treasury.

*3. a) What will the balance of priorities be within the new Department's aid programmes between poverty reduction in lower income countries and fostering mutual prosperity with middle-income countries?;*

*b) Will the FCDO be allocated a fixed or target proportion of available ODA and will this amount correspond to the sum of the previous DFID (c. 75%) and FCO shares (c. 4.4%)?; and*

*4. a) How will FCDO balance priorities between longer term development (including its mutual prosperity agenda in middle-income countries) and increasing demands for humanitarian assistance in fragile states?*

As I have said in Parliament, prioritising the least developed countries and the 'bottom billion' will remain at the heart of the FCDO. In spite of a reduced GNI forecast for 2020, we have protected work on: poverty reduction for the bottom billion; tackling climate change and reversing biodiversity loss; championing girls' education; UK leadership in the global response to Covid-19, and campaigning on issues such as media freedom and freedom of religious belief, thereby ensuring that the UK is a global force for good. The Integrated Review will set out how we will use UK ODA in future and ensure it remains fit for purpose.

FCDO's share of ODA is subject to the outcome of the Spending Review. It is the responsibility of HM Treasury to allocate budgets.

*b) How will the new FCDO use UK aid to address the root causes of conflict and instability in the most challenging contexts?*

Alongside immediate efforts to stop violence, action on the root causes of conflict – as part of a sustained strategy to prevent conflict or transition out of it – will be central to how FCDO uses UK aid in fragile states. In the Strategic Defence and Security Review (2015) and the National Security Capability Review (2018), HMG ensured that more of our aid spend addressed the underlying causes of conflict and built resilience and preparedness overseas. The 2016 Building Stability Framework set out in detail the evidence base for this and described shifts in the way that we deliver UK aid. The 2017 UK Humanitarian Reform Policy set out UK ambitions to increase our investments towards crisis anticipation and preparedness, to reduce the humanitarian impact of shocks. These two documents will inform our approach as we reshape our capability to address conflict in the places that matter most to the UK through the Integrated Review.

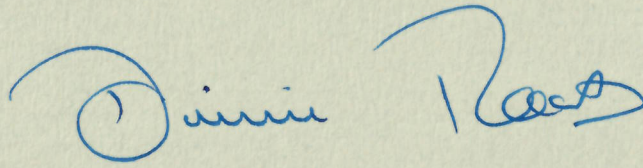
*c) How will the FCDO deploy the government's Global Britain vision to make progress towards political solutions in these challenging humanitarian contexts?*

Supporting political solutions – whether at national, regional or international level – is a central component of the FCDO's work preventing conflict and helping countries transition out of it. Our diplomatic, security, soft power and development levers all have a role to play as part of an integrated approach. For example the UK has led the international community to galvanise efforts to support Somalia to transition to a more stable and secure footing since 2011 by hosting a series of conferences and



supporting political progress through diplomatic engagement alongside development and security programming in a number of areas. Future processes of strategy and policy development will set out how we best deploy these levers in line with available evidence and lessons learned.

*Yan er.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dominic Raab". The signature is stylized, with a large, flowing "D" and a distinct "Raab" at the end.

**THE RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP**