



**LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
THE RT. HON. JACOB REES-MOGG M.P.**



Ms Sarah Champion M.P.,
Chairman of the International Development Committee

Tom Tugendhat Esq. M.P.,
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: JRM/NMP818
2 December 2020

Dear Sarah & Tom,

FUTURE OF UK AID SCRUTINY

In light of the merger of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development and following discussions with relevant parties, I am writing to confirm that I do not intend to bring forward a motion to alter the current committee structure and, therefore, the Foreign Affairs Committee and International Development Committee will be retained in their current form.

I have been grateful for the valuable conversations with Members across the House on this issue. While the Government's preferred position is that select committees in the Commons should generally mirror Government departments, it is clear that there is strong support to maintain the dedicated scrutiny of UK aid spending by Parliament and I believe that this option provides the best balance for Parliament and Government.

I am copying this letter to the Chairman of the Liaison Committee and the Foreign Secretary and I am placing a copy of this letter in the House of Commons Library.

With every good wish,

*Yours ever,
Jacob*