



The Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth
and Development Affairs

16 December 2020

Dear Dominic,

UK official development assistance (ODA)

In my letter dated 3 December 2020¹, following up on my letter opposing the Government's intention to break the UK's commitment to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income on ODA from 2021, I asked about the Government's priorities for UK ODA. This responded to your letter, dated 2 December 2020,² which set out seven "challenges" which would shape the UK's ODA allocation.

In a debate on 14 December 2020, Baroness Goldie stated that:

"The Foreign Secretary recently chaired a review process looking at all the strands of the UK ODA budget. The review safeguarded support for five ODA priorities: the very poorest—that is, poverty reduction for the bottom billion; climate change; girls' education, which will, I hope, reassure the noble Lord and the noble Baroness; Covid-19; and the role of Britain globally as a force for good."³

The International Relations and Defence Committee is delighted to see "poverty reduction for the bottom billion" listed by Baroness Goldie as one of the priority areas for UK ODA. As I raised in my letter of 3 December, we were concerned that poverty reduction did not feature in your list of seven global challenges. However, we note that only three of the "five ODA priorities" referred to by Baroness Goldie—climate change, COVID-19 and girls' education—were on the list of the seven given in your letter.

We would be grateful if you would include in your response to my letter of 3 December 2020 how the priorities set out by Baroness Goldie relate to your seven challenges and to the approach to ODA set out in your letter of 2 December 2020.

We further note that in a debate on 15 December 2020, Lord Grimstone of Boscobel referred to the requirements of the International Development Act 2002—"that overseas development assistance is provided only for the purposes of furthering sustainable development of a country outside the UK or for improving the welfare of the population of such a country"—and the 2015 UK aid strategy as setting the parameters for how UK ODA

¹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3829/documents/38357/default/>

² <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3685/documents/38128/default/>

³ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-12-14/debates/9239E953-2B13-42B6-A1C9-AA72A6F4AF98/UNMissionInMaliArmedForcesDeployment> Col 1534

is used.⁴ I would be grateful if you would consider this statement in the context of your response to our question, in my letter of 3 December 2020, as to whether the strategic priorities of the 2015 aid strategy still stand, and how your seven challenges fit with the objectives for UK aid laid down in the existing legislation.⁵

Yours, as ever

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jayce Anelay".

Baroness Anelay of St Johns
Chair, International Relations and Defence Committee

⁴ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-12-15/debates/54B3F3E1-BB83-43B3-A8BB-1C1A76F4F04B/TradeBill> Col1623

⁵ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3829/documents/38357/default/> (Question 3)