



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

4 February 2021

Dear Dominic,

Official development assistance and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Thank you for your letter dated 25 January 2021, in response to my letter dated 3 December 2020. We found the information that was provided in your letter helpful. However, your replies to some of our points either did not answer the question, or only provided a partial response.

We set out below issues on which we request further information in writing.

- **Question 1:** Your response does not answer either of the questions we posed. We request that you now do so. We note your response to questions from the International Development Committee on 26 January 2021,¹ and wish to make clear that it is essential that both Houses are provided with the criteria the Government would use to consider a return to spending 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) on official development assistance (ODA), before considering legislation to reduce the target to 0.5% from 2021-22. Will these criteria be set out in the legislation you introduce to reduce the target? When will that legislation be introduced?
- **Question 2:** What decisions have been made on the share of cuts to UK ODA resulting from (1) the fall in the UK's GNI and (2) the intention of the Government to cut ODA spending to 0.5%? How will these cuts be spread between bilateral and multilateral programmes? When will details of where the cuts to the ODA budget will fall be published?
- **Question 3:** In your response, as in your previous letter dated 2 December 2020,² you refer to the new "strategic framework". We request that this strategic framework be published in full. We hope that this document will have the same level of detail as the 2015 Aid Strategy, given that it replaces that document. In your evidence to the International Development Committee on 26 January 2021 you referred to "the SR". Could you confirm if this is the same as the strategic framework?

¹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/1590/html/>

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



Furthermore, in your Written Ministerial Statement on 26 January 2021 you stated that you would “lead a cross-departmental review on a new development strategy to ensure close alignment of UK aid with the objectives to be set out in the Integrated Review”. How will this review relate to the new strategic framework? What is the timeline for the new review?

- **Question 7:** What additional oversight will you provide over the ODA funds spent by departments other than the FCDO, both to ensure this is spent in line with the priorities you have set out, and used effectively? What will be the process for this oversight?

Finally, we look forward to your response to our letters of 25 November 2020³ and 16 December 2020,⁴ as the questions we posed in those letters are not answered in your response dated 25 January 2021. These letters asked about:

- The policy rationale for the decision to reduce the aid budget, and what cost-benefit analysis of the decision had been undertaken by the Government.
- The consistency between statements on 14 and 15 December 2020 on the floor of the House of Lords by two Ministers and the “seven challenges” you described in your letter of 2 December, and how these “seven challenges” relate to the existing ODA legislation.

Yours, as ever

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

³ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3682/documents/35810/default/>

⁴ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/4082/documents/44334/default/>