



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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Sarah Champion MP
Chair, International Development Committee

The Rt Hon. Emily Thornberry MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee

House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

07 April 2025

Dear Sarah and Emily,

Spending Review Submission

Thank you for your letter of the 4th February requesting that the FCDO shares its initial Spending Review submission with both the International Development Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, to which I am responding on the Foreign Secretary's behalf. Given the important scrutiny role that the Committees play, I welcome your interest in the FCDO Spending Review negotiations to ensure it delivers for the UK's diplomatic and development objectives.

The Spending Review is a whole of government exercise to match the Government's resources to its Plan for Change. The final outcomes of the Spending Review will be collectively agreed by Cabinet and then presented to Parliament as government policy upon its conclusion.

Departmental Spending Review submissions are part of a much wider policy making process. Given that the information in Departments' submissions relate to the development of government policy across HMG as part of the Spending Review process, its disclosure may inhibit free and frank advice and discussion on policy. As such, the FCDO is not able to disclose the content of its submission to the International Development Committee or the Foreign Affairs Committee, in case it prejudices the outcome of the Spending Review.

The final Spending Review settlements will be presented to Parliament in the usual way on 11th June 2025, and these will represent agreed government policy. The Committees will then be able to scrutinise the impacts of this policy at this stage. The Committee will also have opportunities to discuss and scrutinise the FCDO's spending in advance of the final settlements through continued engagement and appearances, including on the decision to cut ODA to 0.3% by 2027.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

CATHERINE WEST MP
Minister for the Indo-Pacific