



International
Development
Committee

Tuesday, 1 April 2025

Catherine West MP
Minister for the Indo-Pacific
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
By email

Subject: Relocation of FCDO Headquarters in East Kilbride

Dear Catherine,

I am writing to you in response to your previous letter, dated 6 March 2025, regarding the decision to cancel the planned relocation of the FCDO headquarters from East Kilbride to Glasgow. Whilst I am pleased that FCDO staff in Scotland finally have clarity over the future for the office, the cancellation of this planned move will undoubtedly come as a disappointment to many, not to mention the sunk costs involved.

When he appeared before the International Development Committee in January, the Second Permanent Under-Secretary explained that one of the primary reasons for the office relocation was to allow for the “full spectrum of (career) possibility” for FCDO staff in Scotland. He said that to enable this at Abercrombie House, the building would require a significant uplift of its capacity for secure work, including a full re-engineering of the electricity supply. To remain in Abercrombie House, without improving the technological capacities of the building, therefore restricts the career opportunities for FCDO staff based in East Kilbride.

I would be grateful for your response to the following questions:

- Are there plans to continue with a relocation programme in the future, or will the FCDO commit to maintaining its headquarters within Abercrombie House?
- Was the decision to remain in Abercrombie House made as a result of the recent announcement to reduce ODA spend to 0.3% of GNI, or were there other concerns with the plans in place?
- Can you provide an estimate of the expected financial loss resulting from the cancellation of the relocation?
- Is the FCDO planning to invest in updating the capacity and functionality of Abercrombie House, to allow for staff to have equal opportunities to their counterparts based in London?



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I would be grateful for your response by Wednesday 16 April. In line with our practice relating to Committee correspondence, we will publish this letter and your response.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Champion MP
Chair of the International Development Committee