



**International
Development
Committee**

Tuesday, 4 August 2026

Mr Jon Watts
[By email]

Subject: Future engagement

Dear Jon,

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Development Committee (IDC) to discuss how we might strengthen engagement with the FCDO's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee going forward.

We have recently set out to review our inquiry lifecycle with a view of strengthening Parliamentary scrutiny and impact. This includes reviewing our approach to how we develop our emerging findings and report narrative, formulate our recommendations, and to monitor FCDO's follow-up actions in response to our reports. In this context, we are interested in exploring whether there may be opportunities for earlier and more regular engagement with the FCDO, specifically the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, throughout these processes. It would therefore be helpful to understand your views on how we could engage with Audit and Risk colleagues more effectively on:

- the development of more targeted, actionable and measurable recommendations that the FCDO is better able to accept and implement;
- monitoring the implementation of recommendations and follow-up actions; and
- identifying areas where IDC scrutiny and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee work could complement one another more closely.

Moreover, understanding how the IDC's reports are used in practice would be helpful as we consider how engagement between our respective functions could be strengthened. The Committee published its report on Assessing Value, Ensuring Impact: [*The FCDO's Approach to Value for Money in Official Development Assistance*](#) in October 2025. We would be grateful if in your response you could outline whether this report was considered by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and whether its findings and recommendations have informed your work.

I would be grateful for your thoughts on this and would welcome any suggestions you may have regarding mechanisms for closer engagement.



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Champion'.

**Sarah Champion MP
Chair of the International Development Committee**