



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

28 April 2021

Dear Dominic,

UK official development assistance (ODA)

When you appeared before the International Relations and Defence Committee on 27 April 2021, you said that by providing the information in your Written Ministerial Statement on ODA for 2021-22,¹ the Government was being more transparent than in previous years on ODA allocations. You stated that in previous years, country aid allocations were only published the following year. However, the Department for International Development (DfID) used to produce three-year plans in advance,² and also publish figures one year in advance.³

First, I would be grateful if you could clarify the comments made before the Committee.

Second, I urge you to publish country-specific aid allocations for 2021-22 as a matter of urgency. It is not sufficient to do so only at the end of the financial year. DfID had a reputation for transparency, and the advance provision of country aid allocations was an important part of this openness. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office should maintain the level of transparency on budgets and spending established by DfID.

Yours, as ever

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

¹ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-04-21/hcws935>

² For example:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/913364/Syria-Profile.pdf

³ For example:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/902370/annual-accounts19-20.pdf