



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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Sarah Champion MP
Chair - International Development Committee
House of Commons
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3 June 2021

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your letter of 11 May, in which you raised a number of questions relating to changes to the UK aid budget in 2021/22.

Thematic and geographic areas

The Integrated Review sets the strategic framework for UK foreign and development policy for the years ahead. The Review embeds the Strategic Framework and the global challenges for UK ODA that I set out to Parliament last November.

Every line of FCDO ODA spend has been scrutinised and tested by Ministers to ensure the final portfolio is coherent and consistent with the priorities of the Integrated Review. Within this context, the internal allocations process has also taken into account levels of need, our capabilities and comparative advantage to deliver, the UK national interest, and our public and legal commitments. This framing also determined the FCDO's geographic allocations, including our tilt towards the Indo-Pacific, and a focus on East Africa in recognition of the UK's unique role and clear national strategic interest.

The budgets allocated to tackle the seven global challenges, as set out in my Written Ministerial Statement of 21 April, are the resources and spending that will be delivered directly by the FCDO in 2021/22. However, country bilateral spending is only one way that UK ODA supports beneficiaries. Country bilateral budget allocations do not include imputed funding provided through UK core contributions to multilateral agencies, such as our crosscutting support to IDA19 and legacy commitments to European Union mechanisms, or through capital investments such as those managed by CDC.

You request a breakdown of countries that the FCDO defines as (i) Africa; (ii) Indo Pacific; and (iii) Rest of the World when outlining regional ODA allocations for 2021/22. I attach at Annex A the list of countries to which I have allocated bilateral ODA this year. The FCDO will also spend through regional bilateral programmes to reach countries not included on this list, such as in the Sahel, Caribbean, and Western Balkans.

ODA budget for 2021/22 and allocations

The full, definitive picture of UK ODA spending for 2021/22, including total spend through bilateral and multilateral means, will be reported in the Annual Report and Accounts for 2021/22 and the provisional and final Statistics on International Development 2021. This is in line with previous years. The Government is proud of the UK track record on aid transparency and remains committed to uphold these high standards.

Your letter refers to the uplift in defence spending. The Government's approach to defence is predicated on an assessment of the threats we face. That rightly determines the kind of defence capabilities we need. The settlement for defence ensures we can protect our people against new and evolving threats, while also boosting our standing in the world, supporting global peace and security, and directly contributing to the UK's offer on international development beyond ODA.

You also ask about oversight of ODA spending by other government departments. As set out in my Written Ministerial Statement of 26 January, I led a cross-government review of how ODA should be allocated against the government's priorities for 2021. However, the ultimate responsibility for finalising and delivering department ODA settlements remains the responsibility of individual departments. Secretaries of State and Permanent Secretaries remain fully accountable for the good governance of their ODA portfolios, in accordance with existing HMT spending control arrangements. They are also responsible for ensuring compliance with the International Development Acts (2002 and 2014).

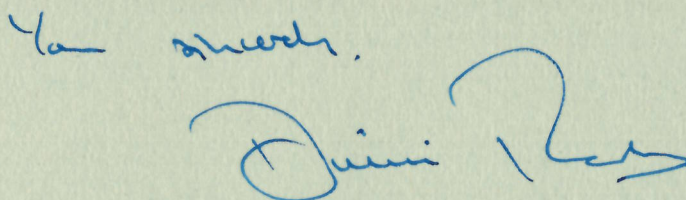
You refer to the £30m crisis reserve listed under 'humanitarian preparedness and response' and the UK ODA crisis reserve which was managed by DFID. The FCDO's crisis reserve is primed for quick disbursement, which will enable the UK to respond extremely swiftly to emergencies. We recently disbursed £200,000 from this reserve to provide emergency assistance to people in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which saw more than 15,000 people evacuated following volcanic eruptions. This £30m reserve sits within the £906m the UK will spend this year to support people affected by the most urgent humanitarian crises around the world.

Return to spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA

As your letter sets out, the Government has publicly committed to return to 0.7% when the fiscal situation allows. The FCDO will maintain its usual strong financial management process to ensure delivery of 0.5% GNI spent on ODA this year. Value for money objectives and risks have been considered during the allocation process and at each stage of the programme cycle.

Ministerial responsibility

The Government does not intend to reinstate a separate post of Secretary of State for International Development at Cabinet. My role as the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs ensures that UK development programming is reinforced by our diplomatic network and wider foreign policy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Dominic Raab', is written over a light blue circular official stamp.

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Annex A: List of countries for which bilateral ODA is allocated in 2021/22

Africa	Burundi
	DRC
	Ethiopia
	Ghana
	Kenya
	Liberia
	Malawi
	Mozambique
	Nigeria
	Rwanda
	Sierra Leone
	Somalia
	South Sudan
	Southern Africa
	Sudan
	Tanzania
	Uganda
	Zambia
	Zimbabwe
Indo-Pacific	Afghanistan
	Bangladesh
	China
	India
	Indonesia
	Myanmar
	Nepal
	Pakistan
Rest of the World	Brazil
	Colombia
	Mexico
	Syria
	Turkey
	Venezuela
	Yemen