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Sarah Champion MP
Chair of the International Development
Committee
House of Commons
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February 2023

Dear Sarah.

I am writing to update you on the new governance mechanism for Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending across government, the UK Government ODA Board.

I will co-chair the Board with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and it will meet two to four times a year, and more frequently if needed. We intend to have our first meeting in March.

The ODA Board will scrutinise ODA spend, drive value for money for the UK taxpayer, and will bring a greater strategic focus to ODA allocations across government. This includes managing risks and new pressures, assessing ODA spending plans against the priorities of the International Development Strategy, considering the strategic coherence of ODA prioritisation, and more. All government ODA spending is in scope for the Board, and all Ministers responsible for ODA spending can be invited, as appropriate, to meetings. The Board's advice will be considered by departments and HM Treasury when planning and approving spend, but the spending control framework will remain unchanged and departmental Secretaries of State, Ministers and Accounting Officers remain accountable for the money spent by their department in line with the principles of Managing Public Money.

I am confident this new governance mechanism will drive up the quality and coherence of ODA spent across government, and I look forward to keeping the Committee updated as the Board establishes itself.

with every good wish,
Yours ever,

Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP
Minister for Development and Africa

Andrew