



**International
Development
Committee**

Tuesday, 14 July 2026

**Baroness Chapman of Darlington
Minister of State (International Development and Africa)
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office**

By email

Follow-up on the Government's response to letter on 23 June 2026

Dear Baroness Chapman,

Thank you for your letter dated 7 July 2026. We will publish this letter alongside the oral and written evidence to allow both accounts of events to be recorded as is the Committee's practice.

Whilst the details of events around the FCDO's work on El Fasher diverge, the Committee agrees with you that it would be counterproductive if civil servants felt the outcome of their deliberations would be misrepresented. Any scrutiny by the Committee on this topic is directed at political decisions; and whether actions and policies of ministers facilitated a culture in which officials were encouraged to present bold, well-informed and varied policy options for action at both a multilateral level and on the ground. As we heard in the session, and have made clear ourselves, the Committee consistently finds the work of officials is inspiring and exemplary.

We are heartened by the steps that the Government is taking regarding the egregious developments in El Obeid – something also echoed by the witnesses on 23 June. Regardless of the validity the FCDO gives the evidence we heard on the response to warnings on El Fasher, we would like to press you to build on the lessons learnt from the UK's part in the international community's "failure to succeed" in preventing the atrocity.

We have published your response, and will place this letter in the public domain as is Committee practice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Champion', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Champion MP
Chair of the International Development Committee