



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Sarah Champion MP

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Dear Sarah

Many thanks for your letter of 15 December 2021 with the Committee's questions on Afghanistan. I regret that I was unable to give evidence in person and trust that the following answers will give the Committee the information that it needs.

1. What risk assessments did the Government carry out, prior to its withdrawal from Afghanistan, on the impact of that withdrawal on the organisations, and people who worked for those organisations, in receipt of UK aid in Afghanistan? Did those risk assessments vary according to whether people were employed either directly by the Government or through contracts or subcontracts?

We have long used our travel advice to warn of the risks of travelling to or working in Afghanistan. In April 2021, in light of the decision to withdraw all NATO troops from Afghanistan, we advised all British Nationals to consider leaving Afghanistan. We reiterated this advice in May 2021, when we reduced the number of staff at our Kabul Embassy, drawing attention to our further reduced ability to offer consular support to British nationals in Afghanistan.

Our Kabul Embassy shared this message proactively with NGO partners on the ground. We were in regular contact with partner NGOs to discuss the implications of the withdrawal, including the implications for their operations and the safety of their staff. However, we regularly monitored a wide range of risks to programmes with partners, including robust monitoring of incident and access risks, as part of our programme management.

Since March 2021, our Afghanistan programme has been providing funding to the International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO), an international charity that supports the safety of aid workers in high risk contexts. INSO services help NGOs with their day-to-day risk management responsibilities and improve their overall situational awareness to support evidence-based humanitarian access decisions. This funding has helped provide the NGO

community with objective safety and security information, analysis and advice that enhances real-time situational awareness in a rapidly changing environment and improves broader contextual understanding.

2. What representations has the Government received on the handling of its withdrawal from Afghanistan from representatives of the aid sector on the extent to which the Government's withdrawal from Afghanistan put staff working in that sector at risk?

We are not aware of any formal representations from partner NGOs about our handling of the withdrawal putting staff working in the sector at risk. We have always sought to keep our partners up to date with information affecting staff safety, particularly travel advice.

3. What steps did officials of the British Embassy and / or the UK Government take, in the lead up to and during the UK's withdrawal from Afghanistan, to support the (a) safety of people who work, or have worked, for organisations in receipt of UK aid in Afghanistan and (b) safe passage of those people to the UK in cases where those people are at risk in Afghanistan?

The safety of partner staff has been a high priority throughout our engagement in Afghanistan. In the lead up to the withdrawal, we were in close contact with partners in Afghanistan through channels such as the UN humanitarian coordination meetings, where we discussed the impact of the withdrawal on delivery and staff safety.

The Government has been working to resettle those Afghans most at risk since last year (29 December 2020, the Defence Secretary and Home Secretary announced the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy). The UK launched the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy scheme on 1 April 2021. Under this policy, 2,000 individuals were brought to the UK before the August evacuation began.

Some staff working for NGOs who were ineligible for ARAP but judged to be at particular risk were called forward for evacuation and offered Leave to Remain Outside the Rules ('LOTR'). For those in this category whom we called forward for military evacuation in August, but who were not able to access a flight before the airlift ended, we will offer resettlement under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

4. What (a) advice on the security situation and (b) notice did officials of the British Embassy and / or the UK Government give directly (i.e. not via general FCDO Travel Advice) to representatives of the aid sector (including organisations in receipt of UK aid) on staff exit routes from Afghanistan (i) prior to and (ii) after the 8 July 2021 (when the Prime Minister announced the withdrawal of UK troops)?

In the lead up to the withdrawal our Kabul Embassy were in close contact with partners in Afghanistan through channels such as the UN humanitarian coordination meetings, where we discussed the impact of the withdrawal on delivery and staff safety. We encouraged partners to maintain up to date assessments of staff safety, in keeping with their duty of care to their employees and contractors, and take all appropriate steps to reduce risk.

5. With the benefit of hindsight, what could officials of the British Embassy and / or Government have done differently to better respond to those organisations and staff on the lead up to and during the UK's withdrawal from Afghanistan?

The FCDO internal Lessons Learned review is nearing completion and will make recommendations for future crisis preparedness and response. The FCDO PUS has promised to write to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee to share headline lessons from the review, and we will share this letter with the International Development Committee.

6. What plans has the Government got to better support the safety of staff working in the aid sector in Afghanistan now and in the future?

Safety of staff in the aid sector remains a high priority and humanitarian access will remain a priority for future engagement. Along with many others in the international community, the UK welcomed assurances given by the Taliban to UN Under-Secretary-General Martin Griffiths on humanitarian access. We continue to monitor the situation closely and continue to emphasise to the Taliban the importance of unimpeded humanitarian access and of safety and security for humanitarian workers.

The Prime Minister's High Representative for Afghan Transition, Sir Simon Gass, and the Chargé d'Affaires of the UK Mission to Afghanistan in Doha, Dr Martin Longden, travelled to Afghanistan on 5 October to hold talks with the Taliban. They met senior members of the Taliban, including Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund and Mawlawi Abdul-Salam Hanafi. Sir Simon and Dr Longden discussed how the UK could help Afghanistan to address the humanitarian crisis, the importance of preventing the country from becoming a place where terrorism flourishes, and the need for continued safe passage for those who want to leave the country.

7. How many "employees of charities, humanitarian organisations and NGOs" (a) registered for help from the UK Government, (b) were prioritised for evacuation to the UK and (c) were evacuated to the UK under Operation Pitting?

We received over 150,000 pieces of correspondence over the period of the Afghanistan evacuation, most seeking help with evacuation. We do not have records broken down according to whether or not they were employees of charities, humanitarian organisations or NGOs. However, we were in touch with a range of NGOs throughout the evacuation process, and continue to be.

It was possible to evacuate only a few Afghan staff of NGOs using the 'Leave Outside the Rules' power held by the Home Secretary. The individuals called forward for evacuation on the basis of vulnerability and granted Leave Outside the Rule included employees of charities, humanitarian organisations and NGOs. In total, nearly 500 individuals called forward for evacuation under the LOTR provision were brought to the UK during Op PITTING, and more have been able to leave Afghanistan and come to the UK since.

8. For what reasons did the Government decide not to extend eligibility for the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) to (a) aid sector staff employed through sub-contracts by the Government and (b) staff working for the aid sector employed by organisations in receipt of UK aid?

The Government launched the ARAP scheme on 1 April 2021. At this time, it was decided that ARAP should be for local employees of HM Government in Afghanistan, based on recognition of service and an assessment of likely current and future risk due to the nature of their work for the UK government in the evolving situation in Afghanistan, as well as a very few others who had not been directly employed by HMG but who worked in meaningful enabling roles alongside HMG, in extraordinary and unconventional contexts, and whose responsible HMG unit built a credible case for consideration under the scheme.

9. Given that the Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme (ACRS) was announced on 18 August 2021, what steps is the FCDO taking to liaise with the Home Office on getting that scheme up and running at the earliest opportunity?

The Minister for Afghan Resettlement, Victoria Atkins MP, announced the formal launch of the scheme on 6 January 2022. [<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/oral-statement-on-the-afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>]

• When do you expect the ACRS to be implemented?

The Scheme has now opened, and the first family has been resettled. The Home Office have started the process towards granting Indefinite Leave to Remain under the ACRS to individuals who arrived in the UK through the evacuation effort.

• By what process will aid sector staff be considered for assessment under that scheme?

In the first year of the ACRS, the Government will:

- Resettle those already called forward for military evacuation in August 2021 under the LOTR provision (the 'first pathway');
- Invite UNHCR to refer Afghan refugees for resettlement under the 'second pathway'; and
- Use the 'third pathway' to honour its commitments to those British Council contractors, GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni who are most at risk; and work with international partners and non-governmental organisations to design and deliver the third pathway beyond the first year of the ACRS.

• Do you expect that aid sector staff will be prioritised for protection under that scheme (under the prioritisation criteria announced in the Government guidance for that scheme3)?

As set out in the policy statement, the ACRS will prioritise:

- Those who have assisted the UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for values such as democracy, women's rights and freedom of speech, rule of law; and
- Vulnerable people, including women and girls at risk, and members of minority groups at risk (including LGBT+, ethnic and religious minorities).

Some of those already evacuated, including women's rights activists, journalists, and prosecutors, will be the first to be resettled under the ACRS.

• On what basis, and for what reasons, has the Government (a) set a cap of 5,000 Afghans to be welcomed to the UK in the first year of the operation of that scheme and (b) whether Afghans already evacuated to the UK will be counted as part of those 5,000?

The Home Office is the lead Department for the ACRS and best placed to respond.

• On what basis, and for what reasons, has the Government calculated the number of Afghans to be welcomed to the UK under that scheme as "up to 20,000 over the coming years"; and how many years does "over the coming years" comprise?

The Home Office is the lead Department for the ACRS and best placed to respond.

• What plans does the Government have to review the operation of that scheme once it is up and running?

The Home Office is the lead Department for the ACRS and best placed to respond.

10. On what basis have the resources allocated to the Joint Afghanistan Casework Unit been so calculated?

The Joint Afghan Casework Unit (JACU) is currently responsible for confirming the immigration status of Afghans already evacuated to the UK and facilitating travel to the UK for Afghans to whom a commitment to evacuation was made during Op PITTING and/or under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). It will also be involved in the administration of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). The resources allocated to JACU are based on a judgement of what is required to support these tasks, taking into account a complex and changing situation and the need to adhere to the relevant entry clearance processes.

• What targets does that unit have for responding to casework? Will the performance of that unit against those targets be published?

There is currently no published service standard for JACU's work, given the ongoing and unique nature of different cases and constantly changing context.

• How many cases involving people employed as aid workers (a) has that unit taken receipt of and (b) is that unit actively considering as at receipt of this letter?

We do not have a detailed breakdown of cases on the basis of their employment category. Potential new approvals for resettlement in the UK will be made via the ACRS scheme, which the Minister for Afghan Resettlement, Victoria Atkins MP, announced the formal launch of on 6 January 2022. The ARAP scheme launched on 1 April 2021 and remains open.

• What activities undertaken by that unit the Government plans to attribute to the ODA budget (and at what estimated annual cost)?

This is subject to decision by HM Treasury. The forecasted annual budget of JACU when it is fully operational is approximately £750,000 per annum.

11. What is the Government's policy on the need for biometric data to support applications from Afghan aid workers? What support is available to help Afghan aid workers comply with any Government requirements for such data? Whether there is any derogation where compliance might put such workers at risk of harm? And whether FCDO have had discussions with other Government departments on potential changes to the current policy on the provision of biometric data?

The Home Office and its commercial partners are currently unable to offer a biometrics service in Afghanistan due to the security situation. We will continue to explore options as the situation on the ground develops. Outside Afghanistan our existing systems have been flexible enough to provide biometric facilities to all who have needed them. If individuals are in a third country, access to visa applications centres/enrolment facilities can be arranged to assist in that process.

12. Has the FCDO adopted the Department for International Development's Due Diligence Framework in respect of FCDO funded aid programmes to ensure that delivery partners have, or are putting, measures in place to counter risks to the safety and security of its own staff, and further down the chain if it chooses to subcontract?

The FCDO's Programme Operating Framework, which is available publicly here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fcdo-programme-operating-framework> includes a requirement to ensure that due diligence is completed by our programme teams on any organisation who is the direct recipient of FCDO funding. Detailed internal guidance also exists for our programme teams.

The FCDO Due Diligence Framework includes a focus on assessing our funded partners on a broad range of areas to determine if a partner has the capability and capacity to deliver our programmes. Throughout this framework there is a heavy focus on risk management which includes assessing how partners ensure their staff security. In addition, the Framework has a specific focus on subsequent downstream delivery where the FCDO seek to gain assurance from the funded partner on how they manage this risk within their downstream deliver chain or subcontracted arrangements.

The Afghanistan programme is fulfilling the due diligence framework requirements. Close, robust monitoring of incident and access risks, and wider regular engagement on delivery with partners are also in place. In addition, FCDO regularly attend the UN led Humanitarian Access Group and Country Team meetings to monitor risks.

13. Since the withdrawal of UK troops, what strategies has the Government been deploying to communicate with organisations in receipt of UK aid operating in Afghanistan to ensure that aid reaches the people who need that assistance now? To what extent have those communication strategies built on the (a) Government's previous experience of communicating with those organisations and (b) previous experience of those organisations in operating in areas controlled by the Taliban?

We have always maintained close coordination with UN and NGO partners who we fund. Prior to our withdrawal from Kabul, officials met partners regularly in person as well as in phone/email contact regularly. They were also in regular contact with agencies who we did not fund to improve contextual knowledge.

Since the withdrawal from Kabul we have built on the relationships developed during our time in Kabul to ensure we are able to maintain open and frank conversations with partners who are continuing to ensure vital aid reaches those who need it most. The FCDO Director responsible has held a regular series of meetings with nearly 50 UK and other international NGOs operating in Afghanistan since the evacuation ended.

Since August I have personally been in contact with the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator, heads of UN agencies including the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs as well as other senior officials such as the head of the ICRC and the Aga Khan Development Network. In November, I also met with Deborah Lyons, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan. FCDO officials have also met regularly with NGOs to discuss the humanitarian situation and response, as well as issues relating to staff safety and what channels might be available to those seeking to leave Afghanistan.

All partners who we are funding have extensive experience of delivering in Taliban controlled areas. Whilst the context has significantly changed, they are able to utilise their knowledge and experience of access negotiations and gaining acceptance from local Taliban commanders as well as communities. All are members of the Humanitarian Access Group are well versed in how to implement the Joint Operating Principles, which were in place prior to August and have since been updated to reflect the new operating context. We have been

clear that any Taliban-led government will have to uphold its international obligations, including ensuring safe passage, preventing terror and protecting the rights of women.

14. With reference to your response to Baroness D'Souza's Private Notice Question in the House of Lords on 9 November 2021, whilst acknowledging the Foreign Secretary's announcement of 12 December 2021 of her pledge of £75 million of emergency aid at the G7 Foreign & Development Ministers' Meeting in Liverpool, what more can the Government do to speed up its response to ensuring that funding is allocated in "a structured way, with trusted partners, to ensure support gets through, quickly, to the people who need it most" given the urgency of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan? • In addition, one of our witnesses on 7 December 2021 reported that there is funding previously pledged to aid organisations operating in Afghanistan that remains to be paid, please could you outline what funding previously pledged (if any) remains outstanding? For what reason that funding is so outstanding? And what is the expected timetable for the payment of that funding?

As of the end of December 2021, the UK has transferred over £145 million of the £286 million Afghanistan budget for financial year 2021/22 to partners. This includes £51 million of the £75 million announced by the Foreign Secretary on 12 December 2021. We are currently working on plans to disburse the remainder of the £286 million before the end of this financial year.

FCDO programme teams and advisers continue to work closely with a variety of partners, including local and international NGOs, to ensure that funding is disbursed in a timely manner and reaches those most in need.

We are only supporting life-saving humanitarian assistance through the UN and other trusted organisations on the ground, who are continuing to ensure vital aid reaches those who need it most. All UK aid is subject to strict monitoring and verification to ensure it is only used to help the vulnerable people it is intended for.

We are in regular contact with all our NGO partners working in Afghanistan and all funds owed have been transferred. We would encourage any organisation that believes it is owed funds by FCDO to contact us urgently to discuss. We have followed up with BAAG following the comments made by Elizabeth Winter at the hearing in December 2021 about funding owed to BAAG agencies. They have confirmed that their concern is funding owed from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. BAAG have welcomed the assistance that FCDO officials have provided in seeking to unblock these payments, while also expressing concern that there are still funds outstanding. The FCDO continues to engage with the World Bank to ensure that the \$79m of back-payments the Bank has agreed to pay to NGO partners is disbursed as soon as possible.

15. What strategic and diplomatic steps is the FCDO taking with a) allies in the region, b) Islamic leaders outside of Afghanistan, c) Taliban representatives in Afghanistan and d) communities in Afghanistan to help deliver humanitarian aid to Afghanistan?

(a) Allies in the region

The UK government remains in regular contact with allies in the region and Muslim-majority countries outside Afghanistan. Our partnerships help deliver humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and support neighbouring countries who would be the front line for future refugee flows out of Afghanistan. Nigel Casey, the UK's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, travelled to Pakistan on 23-25 November 2021. He met key

government officials to discuss how the region and allies can come together to avoid a humanitarian and economic crisis in Afghanistan and how to best coordinate to protect regional security and stability. Lord Ahmad travelled to Tajikistan on 3 September 2021 to explore how the region and the UK can work together to further our common aims in Afghanistan. To date, the UK government has disbursed £10 million to support preparedness in the region and to help mitigate widespread humanitarian disaster, including pre-positioning food supplies and essential relief items. This includes: £3m to Iran through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Food Programme (WFP); £4m to Pakistan to support UNICEF and the WFP; and £2m to Tajikistan to the WFP and UNHCR.

(b) Islamic leaders outside Afghanistan

The Foreign Secretary convened a meeting of Gulf Cooperation Council Foreign Ministers on 20 December 2021. This followed her visit to Saudi Arabia and Qatar on 20-22 October 2021. The Government continues to work closely with Gulf allies on providing urgent humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and on evacuations. The Foreign Secretary met Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi on 11 November and discussed ways in which Islamic leaders could work together with key allies to help deliver humanitarian and regional support to Afghanistan. Additionally, the UK accepted an invitation to be an observer at the 17th Extraordinary Session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Islamabad on 19 December 2021. OIC Leaders, alongside observers from China, Russia, the US and UK, discussed how best to provide much needed humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

(c) Taliban representatives in Afghanistan

The Government is engaging in pragmatic dialogue with the Taliban to address the humanitarian crisis and ensure the vital aid committed by the UK Government can reach the most vulnerable Afghans in all provinces. In addition to discussing the urgent humanitarian crisis, the UK Government engages the Taliban to ensure safe passage for those who wish to leave the country, protect the rights of women and girls, and prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a place where terrorism flourishes. Sir Simon Gass, who was appointed the Prime Minister's High Representative for Afghan Transition in August 2021, and the UK Mission to Afghanistan based in Doha are leading this diplomatic, security and humanitarian engagement. Sir Simon Gass and the Chargé d'Affaires of the UK Mission to Afghanistan in Doha, Dr Martin Longden, travelled to Afghanistan on 5 October 2021 to hold talks with the Taliban. Together with other Afghan missions in Doha, FCDO officials met Taliban representatives in Doha on 12 and 27 October and on 28 November 2021. Sir Simon, Dr Longden and FCDO officials continue to engage with the Taliban in order to ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

(d) communities in Afghanistan

Ministers and officials are in regular contact with Afghans in the UK, the heads of UN agencies, NGOs and counterparts to ensure our humanitarian response is fully informed by the needs of all Afghans, particularly vulnerable groups. On 15 December 2021, Minister for Africa Vicky Ford MP, Minister for South Asia and the Commonwealth Lord (Tariq) Ahmad, along with a senior representative from the Home Office, met representatives from NGOs with expertise on vulnerable groups on Afghanistan including women and girls, LGBT and religious minorities. This was a follow up to the meeting the Foreign Secretary, in her role as Minister for Equalities, held in September 2021.

16. What steps is the FCDO taking with its international counterparts to help ease the banking crisis and improve liquidity in Afghanistan, which according to the witnesses

we heard from on 7 December 2021 is seriously impeding and putting at risk the work of the aid sector in Afghanistan, as well as being a major contributory factor to the escalating humanitarian crisis in that country?

The UK is playing a leading role in international efforts to address the multiple causes of the crisis, including the banking and liquidity crisis, working closely with the UN, the World Bank, the US and other leading donors to find urgent practical solutions, which will allow the aid sector to access currency in Afghanistan.

17. With reference to your letter of 16 November 2021 to Waris Mahad (Advocacy Coordinator, Bond), Reference MC2021/25842, what steps the Government is taking with the UN to find a way to circumnavigate the limitations around the issuing of licences (relating to the unavailability of applicable derogations set out in the current UN resolution) to enable aid agencies to operate under the existing sanctions regime in place in Afghanistan?

The UK has worked closely with partners in the UN Security Council to secure a humanitarian exception to the UN Afghanistan sanctions under UNSCR 2255 (2015), as set out on 22 December in UNSCR 2615. This will facilitate the urgent delivery of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan. We are now working as a priority to update the relevant UK legislation to implement this exception as soon as possible. The FCDO, alongside Her Majesty's Treasury's Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI), will ensure that changes to legislation are reflected promptly across HMG's public documents.

18. And in the meantime, what plans the UK Government has to issue renewed guidance to aid agencies to better support "legitimate humanitarian activity" in Afghanistan?

Once the changes to the relevant legislation set out in response to question 17 are made, FCDO, working with OFSI, will ensure that changes to the legislation are reflected promptly in public documents, in consultation with banks and NGOs in the Tri-Sector Group. We welcome the engagement of banks and NGOs with regard to the guidance which will further support the important work of both the NGO and financial sectors in Afghanistan.

19. What steps is the FCDO taking to encourage the World Bank to swiftly release further funds from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund portfolio to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan?

The UK has taken a leading role in the repurposing of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). We welcome the decision by the World Bank's Board on 30 November to transfer \$280 million to support the humanitarian response and basic health services via UN agencies. We are also working with ARTF partners to encourage the World Bank to rapidly produce options to allocate the \$1.2 billion remaining in the Fund, for early Board consideration.

20. What the UK Government's policy is towards allocating funding for bilateral aid programmes versus multilateral aid programmes in Afghanistan?

The majority of funding to date has been allocated to multilateral humanitarian partners, specifically the UN and Red Cross Movement. Channelling funding through these partners is the most effective way for FCDO to support humanitarian activities at scale inside Afghanistan. This financial support includes significant allocations to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, for which we have provided over £90 million this financial year, which is a key source of funding for both national and international NGOs working in

Afghanistan. We maintain some limited bilateral funding to NGO partners in Afghanistan and will continue to keep this under review.

21. Government allocation of funding to vulnerable Afghan citizens (in third countries. In my letter to you of 2 December 2021, I asked some follow-up questions to you on the provision of aid to Pakistan to assist with the response to the influx of refugees from Afghanistan, further to the oral evidence on Pakistan that you provided to the Committee on Tuesday 23 November 2021 (before that session was curtailed as a result of a division in the House). You told us in that session that £30 million had been made available to help Afghanistan’s neighbouring countries cope with the influx of refugees from Afghanistan. Please could you respond to these further questions on the allocation of that £30 million: How much of that £30 million has been allocated to which countries (including, but not limited to, Pakistan)? Of the £10 million of that funding allocated to humanitarian partners, to which humanitarian partners has that funding been so allocated (and in which countries are those humanitarian partners delivering that work so funded)?

So far, we have disbursed £10 million to support refugee preparedness and assistance in neighbouring countries as follows:

- £4 million to Pakistan – (£2 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) and £2 million to UNICEF)
- £3 million to Iran (£2 million to the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and £1 million to WFP)
- £2 million to Tajikistan (£1 million to WFP and £1 million to UNHCR)
- £1 million to International Federation of Red Cross

On 11 January, the UN, along with NGOs, launched an updated regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for 2022-23, covering Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. We are currently considering how best to allocate the remaining £20m earmarked for regional support in the light of this plan.

Has any of that funding been allocated to the UK to assist with the response to the influx of refugees from Afghanistan? If so, how much of that funding has been so allocated?

None of the £30m has been allocated to supporting refugees in the UK.

22. The Committee understands, as cited in your letter to it of 13 October 2021, that “certain costs for supporting refugees in the first twelve months of their stay in a donor country (e.g. the UK) can be reported as ODA” • How much funding allocated to Afghan citizens living in the UK to date has been counted as ODA funding to Afghanistan? • Will it be the policy of his Department to count any such funding allocated in the future for that purpose as ODA funding?

To date no ODA funding has been counted in HMG’s support to Afghan citizens living in the UK. The £286m announced by the Prime Minister for humanitarian and development support will not be allocated to support Afghan citizens in the UK though, as detailed elsewhere in this letter, some of that funding has been allocated to support Afghan refugees in countries neighbouring Afghanistan

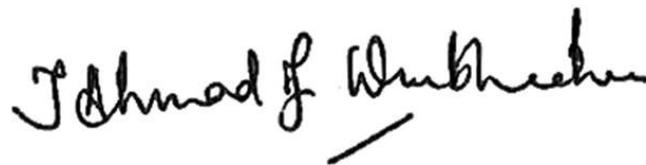
The UK formally launched the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) on 6 January 2022. The government will resettle more than 5,000 people in the first year and up to 20,000 over the coming years. We will work with the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR) to identify those we should help. The Home Office are the lead department for the delivery of the scheme. A proportion of the Home Office costs associated with this scheme can be accounted as ODA using in-donor eligibility rules defined by OECD DAC.

23. The Committee welcomes the recent re-instatement / release of some information on Afghanistan to the FCDO's Devtracker web pages, however we note that only one project listed (project identifier GB-GOV-1-301371) has a start date in 2021 (and since the UK's withdrawal from Afghanistan), how does the FCDO plan to ensure the transparent reporting of ODA funding allocated to Afghanistan going forwards?

Programme information was temporarily removed from Devtracker in order to ensure the safety of our partners until the information was reviewed and relevant content was anonymised. Current programme information has been republished and we are working to restore historical content to Devtracker as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Written Ministerial Statement laid before the Houses of Parliament on 15 December provides a detailed breakdown of programming and beneficiaries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON

Minister of State for South and Central Asia, UN and the Commonwealth.
Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict