

Our ref: 251SOS20

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Claire O'Shea

Co-Chair Wales Overseas Agency Group

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15th December 2020

Dear Claire -

Official Development Assistance

Thank you for your letter of 24 November regarding Official Development Assistance (ODA).

We face extraordinary economic circumstances as a result of the Covid pandemic and this Government has provided unprecedented support to protect jobs and help our economic recovery.

We are not stepping back from our global role in the world. This is why we will spend the equivalent of 0.5% of our national income as overseas aid in 2021, allocating £10bn for ODA in 2021-22. This settlement will ensure the UK remains one of the largest ODA spenders in the world and we plan to return to 0.7% when the fiscal situation allows.

We have also committed to spending considerable sums on areas that do not count as ODA funding but make a difference to development overseas. These include, an extra £510m next year on peacekeeping and security programming and over £556m in 2021-22 on asylum support.

The UK's role on the world stage remains absolute. The UK has been publicly recognised by the IMF for its leadership in responding to COVID-19. We are the world's largest donor to Covax's Advance Market Commitment, the global initiative supporting developing countries' access to coronavirus vaccines, making £548m available. The Government has also committed £1.65bn in the funding of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, enabling the immunisation of around 75 million children from infectious diseases in some of the world's poorest countries.

We are the top donor to the World Bank's lending arm for the poorest countries, the International Development Association. We also lend to the IMF's Poverty Reductions and Growth Trust, totalling £4.4bn, of which two-thirds is not ODA. The UK is also the fifth largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget.



UK Government
Llywodraeth y DU

Rt Hon Simon Hart MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru

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Going further, the Government has committed to increase our contribution to the World Health Organisation to £340m over the next four years, cementing the UK as the second largest member state contributor.

The work of the Wales Overseas Agency Group and its members is of vital importance; therefore, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all you do, and the commitment and dedication the group shows.

Yours Sincerely,

Rt Hon Simon Hart MP

Secretary of State for Wales

Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru