



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Baroness Chapman of Darlington
Minister of State for International
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Dr Manuela Perteghella MP
House of Commons
London
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Our ref: N10#2025/08991
Your ref: MP02055

29 April 2025

Dear Manuela,

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 March to the Prime Minister, about Official Development Assistance (ODA). I am replying as the Minister of State for International Development, Latin America and the Caribbean.

As you are aware, on Tuesday 25 February, the Prime Minister announced that we will increase defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2027. It will fund the capabilities, technology and industrial capacity vital to keep the UK and allies safe amid an era of renewed state conflict. The security of the UK is the first duty of government; it comes above all else and we must put our collective security first. The overriding priority currently is strengthening hard power deterrence capabilities given the acute security threats we face.

Doing so demands the difficult but necessary decision to reduce our ODA spending from 0.5% to 0.3% of GNI. This is not a decision we took lightly.

This Government remains fully committed to a significant role in international development; it is in our national interest and in the interest of our partners across the globe. We will continue to play a key humanitarian role, including in Ukraine, in Gaza, and in Sudan, and we will continue to pursue and foster respectful and mutual partnerships. The UK remains committed to tackling global challenges, supporting the poorest people and ensuring that every pound of the public's money spent has significant impact on our development priorities.

While an important tool for our international development work, ODA alone is not, and never has been, the single answer. We will use all levers to support our development aims and make the most of other forms of development finance to maximise the impact of our ODA.

Thank you for your engagement and interest in the UK's international development work.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Baroness Chapman'.

Baroness Chapman of Darlington
Minister of State for International Development, Latin America and the Caribbean