



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

**Lord Collins of Highbury**  
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9 April 2025

Delyth Jewell MS,

Committee Chair  
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport,  
and International Relations Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
*By email*

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 4 March to the Foreign Secretary about the Welsh Parliament's interest in Africa. I am replying as the Minister for Africa.

This is an exciting time for UK and Africa relations. As I am sure you are aware, this Government is committed to transforming its relationships with African countries. We have consulted widely to gather views on how we can achieve a new partnership with Africa; one rooted in respect which will allow us to make real progress on our shared goals and challenges and foster opportunities for mutual long-term benefit. This new approach will be continent-wide and will promote our economic growth ambitions, including trade and investment, address our migration priorities, and draw on our shared cultural and people-to-people links.

The Foreign Secretary launched a five-month consultation on the new approach during his trip to Nigeria and South Africa in the autumn. Over the last five months, our Ambassadors, High Commissioners, ministerial team, diplomats, and officials in London have consulted with a range of stakeholders: African governments, the private sector, civil society groups, African diaspora, businesses and international organisations. The Government has engaged the devolved Administrations, including the Welsh Government, on the new approach and invited them to provide written comments as part of this process. Officials are currently undertaking an analysis of all of the findings of those consultations. We plan to launch the new approach in the second half of 2025.

I see many similarities between the Welsh Government's priorities for Africa, as set out in the 2020-2025 Wales and Africa Action plan, and our emerging thinking on a revitalised UK approach. In particular, we expect the new approach to place an emphasis on growth, the environment, fair and sustainable partnerships and the importance of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Following the decision to reduce ODA from 0.5% to 0.3% of GNI from 2027/28 to boost defence spending, the Government will be taking a rigorous approach to ensuring that every pound of development assistance is spent in the most impactful way, and this will be reflected in the new Approach to Africa. The Government is committed to returning to 0.7% when fiscal circumstances allow.

Promoting and protecting UK interests and values and projecting the UK's voice in Africa – and indeed across the world – will inevitably involve engaging with some countries which do not fully share our values. The Foreign Secretary has recently set out a vision for an international approach rooted in 'progressive realism'. This requires dialogue and engagement with a range of actors, giving us opportunities to deliver tough messages and influence where we can. We are clear that such engagement does not equate to endorsement.

In closing, let me express my thanks to you for the Welsh Parliaments' interest in our approach to Africa and the recent engagement from the Welsh government in the consultations.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Collins', written in a cursive style.

**Lord Collins of Highbury**  
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