



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/FM/3455/18

Mr. David Rees AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

David.rees@assembly.wales

16 October 2018

Dear David

I am writing in response to your letter of 27 September regarding the recent evidence hearing from Hub Cymru Africa HCA who are funded by the Welsh Government via a grant of £349,000 pa from the Wales for Africa programme.

Thank you for your supportive words about the Wales for Africa programme and the global effort to eliminate poverty by 2030.

The annual budget for the Wales for Africa programme is £925,000. This has increased significantly from £500,000 since its launch in 2006. I will answer your other questions in turn.

You asked whether I would commit to undertake a review of our International Development strategy, however, this would be more appropriately considered by my successor.

You have asked whether a more targeted approach to international development is required in line with Scotland's approach, however, the situation in Wales is different from Scotland where there has been a substantial link with Malawi since the days of David Livingstone. From the outset our intention has been to support Welsh links in sub Saharan Africa wherever they are. We have focussed our efforts on the biggest Welsh links and have sought to add value to their work. Consequently we have focussed on;

- the Mbale region of Uganda where a number of Welsh groups have a link. We have a Memorandum of Understanding with 3 Districts and support a major community based tree planting programme there which has, to date, planted over 9 million trees.
- Lesotho where the longstanding Dolen Cymru charity coordinates the work of several Welsh groups.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
YP.PrifWeinidog@llyw.cymru • ps.firstminister@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- Namibia where Cardiff University has a well supported link with the University of Namibia.

We send staff from across Wales to each of these locations on our International Learning Opportunities programme on 8 week placements. So far over 175 placements have taken place. Participants work with local partners on projects which help deliver the UN Sustainable Development Goals whilst learning and developing new skills which they bring back to their places of work.

You have asked how we envisage the new funding arrangements operating in practice with Wales Council of Voluntary Action. In April of this year we agreed a contract to deliver our Small Grants Scheme with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action following a competitive tendering process. It had become clear that there were a number of bodies which wanted to bid to run our grants scheme and therefore this was the fairest approach.

12 diverse groups from across Wales have recently been awarded grants in a very competitive first round of the new scheme and a further round will be launched in October. We have a comprehensive reporting process in place with WCVA and awardees can use the services of HCA to help them improve the way they monitor and evaluate their work. This is particularly important as I see our small grants scheme as a stepping stone for Welsh groups as they grow and seek to win larger grants from elsewhere.

You have asked about what role the Welsh Government will have in the Fair trade review. Fair Trade Wales, funded by the Welsh Government and a part of HCA, were asked by the Welsh Government to undertake a review of the Fair Trade Nation campaign in order to establish how best they and we can promote Fair Trade. Officials participated in the recent successful visit by interested nations and regions and look forward to agreeing stretching new targets as a result of the review.

The work of the Wales for Africa programme is not constrained by a lack of legal powers. The international relations reservations you refer to relate to the Assembly's legislative competence to make Acts of the Assembly, but the Wales for Africa programme is being delivered using the Welsh Government's existing devolved executive powers outside the International Development Act 2002. We have not raised the issue of powers in the field of international development with the UK Government and I do not believe that this is required to deliver our objectives.

Once again, I would like to thank the Committee for its work with the inquiry and I wish you all the best with the work you are undertaking on the implications for future UK trade policy for Wales.

Yours sincerely

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

CARWYN JONES