



Department
for International
Development



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Dear Stephen

Human Development and DFID, and exiting the EU: redeployment of DFID staff

Thank you for your two letters on deployment of DFID staff to other departments to prepare for EU Exit and DFID's work on human development.

EU Exit

As you are aware, planning and preparing for the UK's exit from the EU on 31st October is the highest priority for Government.

The Cabinet Office requested the support of all government departments for no deal planning. My Department is supporting other government departments, while continuing to deliver our priorities for international development.

Following the extension of Article 50, all of DFID's previously deployed staff under Yellow Hammer 1 returned to the department.

Demand for staff for Yellow Hammer 2 will flow to DFID via Cabinet Office on a continuous basis from now to October with surges likely in mid-September and mid-October. We have completed our matching for the first requests for DFID staff. Over the coming weeks we expect more than one hundred staff to deploy to other departments.

As the exit date of 31 October approaches, we expect the demand to grow and our deployed numbers to increase as a result. In common with the previous deployment work, all deployments will be made with the protection of DFID's priority work as a central principle. In all scenarios, essential DFID business must continue including the lifesaving humanitarian work that we carry out around the world. This means ensuring our programmes to deliver the Government's 0.7% ODA commitment are protected and will continue as planned.




Human development

I am committed to continue the excellent work the Government does on human development. I share your view that human development is critical to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, and investment in human development is central to supporting countries' development, economic growth and reducing poverty.

DFID is a global leader in the three areas you cite: health, nutrition and social protection. On health we are committed to achieving SDG3 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages' and the target of Universal Health Coverage by 2030. The UK is playing a leading role in the upcoming High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage at UNGA. On nutrition we have already exceeded our 2015 commitment to improve the nutrition of 50 million people by 2020, having reached 60 million young children, adolescent girls and women with nutrition services. In social protection we have a strong portfolio, including programmes in more than 20 countries, and recognise its importance for achieving SDG1 'End poverty in all its forms everywhere' and leaving no one behind.

The Prime Minister and I see education - particularly for girls - as key to all the Sustainable Development Goals. The Prime Minister's £90 million commitment at the G7 for education in emergencies and protracted crises shows his determination to lead by example on education globally.

I look forward to updating you on DFID's future priorities and our support to other departments to prepare for EU Exit in due course.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alok Sharma', with a stylized flourish below it.

Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
Secretary of State