



Department  
for International  
Development



Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP  
Secretary of State

Stephen Twigg MP  
Chair, International Development Committee

Our ref: 178849

8 February 2018

*Dear Stephen,*

Thank you for inviting me to give evidence before the Committee on 31 January. During the session, I committed to write to you on a couple of points.

### **Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) Team of Experts**

The Committee asked for clarification on the makeup of the PSVI Team of Experts, including historic membership figures.

The Team of Experts (ToE) is one part of the Civilian Stabilisation Group, a roster of experts managed by the Stabilisation Unit. When the team was established in 2012, there were over 70 members. In 2015, a review of the team's structure was carried out. A significant finding was that a smaller number of experts, who were familiar with HMG policy as well as being experts in their field, were regularly deployed for tasks. Therefore, following extensive consultation the ToE was streamlined and made more focused. This included reducing the number of team members and ensuring that the skillset they represented accurately reflected need. The ToE currently consists of 38 independent experts (26 women), including criminal lawyers, policing advisers, gender based violence experts, international investigating officers, training experts and psychosocial experts. Additional expertise on gender issues is regularly deployed from the wider Civilian Stabilisation Group.

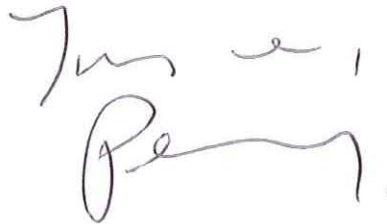
The ToE provide technical advice through conducting assessments, building capacity and delivering training, including on implementation of the International Protocol on Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Principles for Global Action: Preventing and Addressing Stigma Associated with Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. They do not collect evidence or investigate allegations of sexual violence themselves. Deployments of the ToE are designed to build the sustainable capacity of others, including governments, the UN and NGOs.

### **Ministerial Meetings on Official Development Assistance (ODA)**

Mr Lewis asked for details of when Ministers from ODA-spending departments have met previously, and what plans there are for future meetings.

In line with the UK Aid Strategy, HMT and DFID co-chair a Director-level cross-government Senior Officials Group (SOG) on ODA, focused on value for money and ODA delivery which reports to Ministers. Ministers from ODA-spending departments have met twice since the start of 2016 (14 November 2016 and 29 March 2017) to discuss a variety of ODA policy and delivery matters as proposed by the Senior Officials Group. The next Senior Officials Group will be meeting at the beginning of March and I look forward to inviting my Ministerial colleagues to review their progress shortly after. In addition, Ministers have regular bilateral discussions with Ministers from other ODA spending departments on specific issues.

I hope you will find this information helpful.

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

Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP  
Secretary of State