

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Minister for Racing



14 MAR 2018

Terence Wood
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Dear Terence Wood and Joanna Spratt

Thank you for your letter of 14 November 2017 regarding the New Zealand Government aid programme. I welcome your interest in the quality and quantity of New Zealand's Official Development Assistance (ODA).

I confirm that throughout the period since 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has maintained and strengthened systems of quality assurance that apply to all aid programme activities. These systems assess key development quality criteria aligned to international best practice and are applied during planning and design, at approval, through implementation and at closure and evaluation. The overall soundness of New Zealand's development effort is reflected in the independently assessed Commitment to Development Index where we currently rank tenth.

You have questioned the alignment of development assistance with other foreign policy areas. The Government seeks to ensure that our development assistance is coherent and effective and aligns strongly to partner country priorities. We do seek close integration and coherence across different aspects of our foreign policy, including development.

You have also questioned the degree to which the mandated focus on economic development has allowed aid to respond effectively to particular country contexts. The future policy, focus and priorities of New Zealand's development cooperation are under active consideration by the new Government. Economic development will remain an important part of the programme given its importance, including in the Pacific, and the fact that it remains a key priority requested by the governments and people of partner countries.

I have also noted your comments regarding specialist capabilities within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. However, it is my expectation that the Ministry will have the skills and capabilities required to plan and deliver a high quality and accountable development cooperation programme in its priority areas, including significant depth of expertise on the Pacific.

Finally, you have asked me to secure an increase in the quantity of New Zealand's ODA. This is also a matter under consideration by the new Government alongside other budget priorities.

Thank you again for your interest. I have forwarded your letter to my officials for their consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Winston Peters', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs