



St Helena Government

The Castle
Jamestown
St Helena Island
STHL 1ZZ

12 July 2024

The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Dear Prime Minister Starmer,

I send you warm greetings from the Island of St Helena. On behalf of my Government and our people, I write to extend hearty congratulations on Labour's strong victory in last week's UK General Election and your appointment as Prime Minister.

We were heartened to read your Party's manifesto and in particular to note Labour's commitment to regaining Britain's global leadership on development and to strengthening international development work within the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. We are especially happy to note your commitment to protecting the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

Although St Helena is a small Overseas Territory with a population of just 4,500, we are nonetheless extremely proud to be part of the British family and we value our longstanding relationship with the United Kingdom. We look forward to deepening this relationship as we work collaboratively with your Government to develop our shared interests and to find sustainable solutions to address our common problems. These are challenging times globally and we have every confidence in your Government's ability to tackle these challenges as you rebuild the nation.

More specifically, I look forward to engaging with the UK Minister appointed to represent the British Overseas Territories, so that the UK Government remains informed and updated on the progress being made within the respective Territories, as well as the challenges we face collectively, and just as importantly, those challenges which are unique to our specific circumstances.

It is for this reason that I would like to take this opportunity to garner your support in encouraging the newly appointed Minister for the British Overseas Territories to make it their priority to visit all the

Overseas Territories, especially those that are in receipt of Financial Aid and are highly dependent on ODA. In this regard, I would like to extend an open invitation to the new Minister for OTs to make St Helena the first of their inaugural visits to the OTs.

Once again, sincere congratulations!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie Thomas'.

Julie Thomas

Chief Minister.