



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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The Honourable Julie Thomas
Chief Minister of St Helena

26 July 2024

Dear Chief Minister,

I am writing to introduce myself as the newly appointed Minister of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office with responsibility for the Overseas Territories. It is a profound honour and privilege to take on ministerial responsibility for the enduring relationship with St Helena. I am committed to working with you towards our common goals and to achieving our collective interests.

I would like to extend my condolences on the loss of St Helena flagged fishing vessel off the Falkland Islands and the loss of life, we will work to support you in any investigation.

I have long been clear that the Overseas Territories are an integral and cherished part of the global British family, with a relationship built on shared values and deep historical and cultural ties, and I am determined to do all I can to strengthen our partnership from within Government. I firmly believe in the principle of “nothing about you without you”; we need a new spirit of mutual respect and inclusion. I also look forward to discussing the developments of the cabling project.

I am pleased we have had an opportunity to meet a few times in recent years to discuss the Island, most recently in November 2023. I hope we can work together to support St Helena in its ambition to develop a stronger, more resilient economy, achieve its target to generate 80% of its energy from renewable energy sources by 2027/28, and other goals.

I look forward to renewing our acquaintance as we work together in partnership for the people of St Helena, and to seeing you at the Joint Ministerial Council later this year. Ahead of that, I am keen to schedule an introductory group call with all elected Leaders, and my office will be in touch soon to suggest a time for that call.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN DOUGHTY MP
Minister of State

Copied to: Governor of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha