



St Helena Government

The Castle
Jamestown
St Helena Island
STHL 1ZZ

07 August 2024

Stephen Doughty MP
Minister of State
Foreign, Commonwealth &
Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Dear Minister Doughty,

Many thanks for your introductory letter formally advising us of your appointment as Minister of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office with responsibility for the Overseas Territories. On behalf of my Government and our people, I send hearty congratulations on your most welcome appointment.

I am cognizant of your longstanding interest in the Overseas Territories in your previous role as Shadow Minister and have thoroughly enjoyed the conversations we have had during my time in office. Having the opportunity to build upon the relationship we have with you is important to my Government and St Helena, and I look forward to working with you to this end.

It is heart-warming to have you reaffirm that the Overseas Territories are an integral and cherished part of the global British Family. The principles of devolution and autonomy, mutual respect and inclusion, which you set out in your exposition at the Overseas Territories Debate in the House in May last year, are sound and still relevant today.

I am heartened to note your commitment to partnership working through your stated principle of “nothing about you without you”. This is of critical importance to us, I firmly believe we can only achieve the best outcomes, if we are able to build a strong partnership based on an open, honest and understanding relationship, which is respectful and inclusive. This is key to achieving our respective objectives and you can be assured that I am enthusiastic in my endeavour to ensure that this relationship is built from the onset.

We were pleased 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 Labour's commitment to protecting the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

I look forward to engaging directly with you bilaterally as well as through UKOTA, so that your 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.

I know that you will wish to visit all the Overseas Territories, and I would urge you to make those in receipt of Financial Aid and whom are highly dependent on ODA your top priority. In this regard, I would like to extend an open invitation to you to visit St Helena at your earliest opportunity.

Once again, sincere congratulations!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie Thomas', with a stylized initial 'J' and 'T'.

Julie Thomas

Chief Minister.