



The Rt. Hon. Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Secretary of State for International Development

4th August 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

Further to our letter to you of 10th March, which included a briefing of the APPG for Africa on mental health provision in Africa. I am writing on behalf of the APPG for Africa to express concern about the potential loss of the substantial progress made in mental health work in DFID over the last years, during the up-coming merger between DFID and FCO.

Firstly, we understand that prior to the pandemic, DFID was due to publish its Theory of Change and Position Paper on mental health summarising important learning and thinking on positioning the UK's broad approach to mental health in global development. Given the work already done by DFID in this area and the huge progress made, we believe these papers should form an important contribution to shaping the agenda of the new department. Are you able to provide an update of when these papers will be published?

Secondly, the mental health consequences of COVID-19 are well documented, and are regularly referred to in the public and political discourse as a priority for the public. As we consider the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on global development, understanding that mental health has a crucial impact on population behaviour, for example in relation to following public health advice and vaccine uptake is essential. Will mental health form a part of the thinking of the UK Government in planning our response and recovery?

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Chi Onwurah MP

Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Africa

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Africa
c/o The Royal African Society, SOAS, 21 Russel Square, London WC1B 5EA
Chair: Chi Onwurah MP Co-Chair: Lord Chidgey Co-ordinator: Hetty Bailey
E-mail: baileyh@parliament.uk Twitter: @AfricaAPPG www.royalafricansociety.org/appg-africa
Tel: +44 (0) 207 219 8922 (Parliament) or +44 (0) 207 074 5127 (RAS)
The Royal African Society provides the Secretariat for the APPG for Africa