



MS P FERGUSON

- 2 JUN 2005

RECEIVED

DFID Department for
International
Development

1 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE

From the Secretary of State

Patricia Ferguson MSP
Minister for Tourism Culture and Sport
Scottish Executive
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 020 7023 0134
E-mail: h-benn@dfid.gov.uk

23 May 2005

Dear Ms. Ferguson,

Thank you for your letter of 21 March (ref: DrSL/Non MCS) about your International Development policy. I apologise for the delay in replying but, unfortunately, my office did not receive a copy of the policy paper until 9 May.

I am happy to confirm that the general policy outline proposed in your policy paper will assist Ministers of the Crown under the terms of the Scotland Act. The Scotland Office have agreed this advice.

I am very pleased to hear that your international development strategy has been well received – and deservedly so! My officials will of course be happy to continue to work with their counterparts in the Scottish Executive as your policy plans are taken forward. I wish you the best of luck in this.

I am copying this letter to Alistair Darling.

Steven Sealy

pp. HILARY BENN

(Agreed by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence)

