



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Director Consular Services
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

www.gov.uk/fco

24 August 2020

Graeme Trudgill
Executive Director
BIBA

Dear Graeme,

On 2 September, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development are merging to form a new international department: the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

This new department will bring together our overseas efforts on aid and diplomacy, maximising our influence around the world – and ensuring that the UK speaks with a single, powerful voice to safeguard British interests and values overseas. The new Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will strengthen our ability to lead the world's efforts to recover from the coronavirus pandemic and allow us to seize the opportunities ahead, not least as we prepare to take on the G7 presidency and host COP26 next year.

We are making good progress on setting up the new department, which will be led by the Foreign Secretary. Sir Philip Barton, currently our High Commissioner to India and previously the supervising Director General for Consular Directorate, has been appointed as our new Permanent Under Secretary – the most senior Civil Servant in the FCDO. We are working through other elements of set-up and full details of the merger, including the structure of the new department, will be set out in due course.

Consular Directorate will continue to support British nationals around the world through modern and efficient consular services. We do not expect the merger to have a significant impact on our relationship with key partners such as BIBA. But as one of our most vital partners and the unique pressures currently on the travel industry and your members, we would be happy to talk through the forthcoming changes at any time.

We are in the process of amending all our online information and publications to reflect our new Department. Our phone number will also be changing from 020 7008 1500 to 020 7008 5000. Where your webpages or materials reference the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, they will need to be updated, as will any

logos and weblinks. I would be grateful if you could make your members aware of these changes. New guidance on our revised online guidance and branding is currently being developed and we will be in touch with colleagues at working-level when it is available.

Please do let me know if you would like to discuss the forthcoming changes in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JENNIFER ANDERSON
Director Consular Services