



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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The Ascension Island Council

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Dear Councillors,

Following the UK General Election, I am writing to introduce myself as the 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 Ascension Island. I am committed to working with you towards our common goals and to achieving our collective interests.

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.

Ascension Island is of course of vital strategic importance to the UK and our allies. I look forward to further supporting you across the One Island Vision objectives, reaffirming our commitment to work together to identify opportunities for greater coordination of UK Government activity on the island in a way which furthers our strategic objectives, but also the wellbeing of the community and to protect Ascension’s natural environment.

I look forward to working together, including 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
Administrator of Ascension Island