



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

BIOT Team
Overseas Territories Directorate
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Frankie Bontemps

chagossianvoices@gmail.com

Email:

fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/fcdo

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Dear Frankie Bontemps,

Thank you for your emails on 11th November 2022 to the Foreign Secretary and to Lord Goldsmith on 6th December 2022, following the decision by the UK and Mauritius to begin negotiations on the exercise of sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory/ Chagos Archipelago. I am replying on behalf of BIOT Team, part of the Overseas Territories Directorate at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. My sincere apologies for the delay.

We are currently at the beginning of the negotiations. While the negotiations are between the UK and Mauritius, we will ensure that we engage with Chagossian communities as the negotiations progress. We recognise the diversity of views among Chagossian communities about the future of the British Indian Ocean Territory / Chagos Archipelago, and I thank you for setting some of these out in your emails. We take these views very seriously and acknowledge your request for a meeting to discuss these further. Officials are planning a meeting early in the New Year for you and other communities to attend so we can listen to your views.

We remain committed to supporting Chagossians wherever they live through the Chagossian Support Package, which is funding projects in the UK and overseas to improve the lives of Chagossians. We also have taken other steps to help the community. On 23rd November 2022, the UK government launched a new route to British citizenship for all Chagossian people and their children, free of charge. This new route will give anyone of Chagossian descent the opportunity to build their future in the UK should they wish to.

Yours sincerely,

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