



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Rt Hon. Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park
Minister of State for Overseas Territories,
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11 April 2023

Dear Chagossian Voices Team,

Thank you for your letter of 14 March to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) regarding engagement with Chagossian groups in connection with negotiations on the exercise of sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory / Chagos Archipelago. I am replying as the Minister of State for Overseas Territories, Commonwealth, Energy, Climate & Environment.

Thank you for attending the event on 9 February. It was helpful to hear your views and we very much welcome your feedback on the event.

As we explained at the event, we are not able to share detail on the content of the negotiations or speculate on possible outcomes. However, we will discuss with you as much as we can, and we are keen to continue hearing your views. We plan to hold a further session with Chagossian groups shortly, which will be an opportunity for you to hear an update on the negotiations and to share views on key issues.

We have also noted your feedback that no formal record was produced from the previous session. This was in order to encourage open, honest, discussion. We are open to reconsidering this approach and will review how we might be able to record the key points from these events while ensuring all who want to express a view feel they can do so in this forum.

Regardless of the outcome of negotiations, we remain committed to supporting Chagossians wherever they live and are funding projects in the UK and overseas to improve the lives of Chagossians.

We will be in touch with details of the next event in due course. We would welcome your continued engagement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

Rt Hon. Lord Goldsmith
Minister of State for Overseas Territories, Commonwealth, Energy, Climate
& Environment