



Department  
for International  
Development



**Camilla Nickless**  
**Assistant Private Secretary to Secretary of State**

Craig McMillan  
Private Secretary to the Minister for Europe and International Development  
St Andrew's House, Regent Road  
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

*J.* Sept 2015

*Dear Craig,*

Thank you for your Minister's letter to the Secretary of State for International Development, requesting that he join the UK delegation to the UN Summit in New York to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals this September.

We are pleased the UK and Scottish Governments are united on the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals. The request for Mr Yousaf to be part of the delegation has been considered very carefully. We regret to inform you however that Mr Yousaf will not be able to attend as part of the UK delegation on this occasion. As I'm sure you understand, there is a limit on the overall size of the UK delegation for the Summit, with places allocated to the principal Ministers and senior officials required to drive forward UK policy plus support staff running UK hosted events. You will also be aware that international development is a reserved matter under the devolution settlement. I can assure you that, as always, the UK Government delegation to the Summit will represent the views of the whole of the UK, including the Scottish people, and I am very pleased that we share such a strong consensus on the new Goals.

As you are aware, DFID has consulted regularly with Scottish stakeholders throughout the international negotiations around the SDGs, and we have also much appreciated the strong contributions we have received from Scottish people and Scottish organisations, as well as those from other parts of the UK. These contributions have been influential in determining the overall UK Government position.

We also strongly welcome the support of the Scottish Government itself on the Sustainable Development Goals, including Minister Yousaf's own personal contributions, and thank you for your constructive dialogue with DFID on these issues.

*Yousaf,*

*Camilla.*

**APS to Secretary of State for International Development**