



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

19 May 2014

Mr Ahmed Abdi Isse

██████████
Walthamstow
London

MOP/65000/2014

Dear Mr Ahmed Abdi Isse

Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister, dated 26 March. I am responding on his behalf, as Desk Officer for Somaliland at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In response to your question on Travel Advice to Somaliland, you will have noted that the Minister for Africa, Minister Simmonds, announced a change in the Travel Advice to Hargeisa and Berbera, in Somaliland, last month. The Travel Advice now advises against all but essential travel to these cities, whereas previously we advised against all travel. This was widely welcomed in Somaliland, including among Government figures.

As I mentioned to you in my previous letter in November 2013, the UK understands the concerns of many Somalilanders when it comes to Travel Advice, and we work closely with the Government of Somaliland on security co-operation. Both the UK and the Somaliland Government understand the need to work together to defeat terrorism. We believe the threat level as it appears on the FCO Travel Advice is correct.

The UK Government fully understands the importance of supporting economic development in Somaliland. The UK's total support to the Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) is now £25m. This will fund the building of much needed infrastructure, such as roads and improved water supply, help improve service delivery, and also support reform and capacity-building in the areas of public financial management, civil service and local government. We are also supporting the health sector, and economic development and job creation through the Somaliland Business Fund. We understand the importance of helping the younger generation of Somalilanders into work.

As outlined in my previous letter, the UK recognises the positive steps that Somaliland has taken towards democratisation over the last decade, and we welcome the commitment to holding elections in 2015.

Best wishes,

Cameron Millar – Desk Officer, Somaliland, FCO

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