

Ms Sigrid Robinson
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Sigrid.Robinson@scottish.parliament.uk

Your ref: Petition PE1585

19 January 2016

Dear Ms Robinson

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1585

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to create a formal bilateral partnership with Jamaica and make it a Priority Country for trade and international development as a means of acknowledging that trade with Jamaica has contributed significantly to the foundations of economic growth and prosperity in Scotland and recognising that Scotland should now seek to advance the prosperity of Jamaica.

Thank you for your letter of 15 December sent to Karen Hackland seeking the Scottish Government view on the above petition.

As a good global citizen, Scotland is committed to making distinctive contributions in addressing the challenges faced by our world. While we agree that Scotland has strong historical connections with Jamaica, as it does with many countries around the world, the Scottish Government focusses its international engagement on a small number of key countries in order to maximise the impact of its activity and resources. In the context of current financial constraints set by the UK Government, the Scottish Government does not have the capacity to expand the list of priority countries to include Jamaica.

The Scottish Government's International Framework sets out the context and rationale for the Government's international activities. In support of this, we are currently developing a Trade and Investment Strategy which will set out the Scottish Government's approach to international trade and investment and how we will work with businesses, the wider public sector and the third sector, in Scotland and internationally, and with international partners and institutions to achieve specific trade and investment goals.

In terms of international development, the Scottish Government operates a £9 million International Development Fund. This is focussed on a small number of countries in order to maximise the impact of the work that it supports.

For information, a copy of our International Framework can be viewed via the following link <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/International/strategy>

Yours sincerely

EDWARD THOMSON
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