

January 17th 2007

Scrutiny Office
Morier House
Halkett Place
St Helier
JE1 1DD

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re. Overseas Aid Review

In all deliberations and decisions that are made regarding the allocation of money for overseas aid, I trust that those with that responsibility will remember that there is very real need "on our doorstep". In Romania – now in EU – I personally could take you to pensioners struggling to survive on as little as 50p a day.

My own experience of preparing, sending then monitoring humanitarian aid to Eastern Europe makes me believe that much money can be wasted on red tape and administration and through corruption. I have found (on a small scale) that it is the personnel in-country administering the aid who hold the key to those resources being used wisely or recklessly. This leads me to believe that (as a general rule) to make the best possible use of funding it is better to use the smaller organisations (with therefore less overheads), and to check, double-check and then check again a little later and then again that the aid given (whether financial or material) has been used correctly, without a vast amount being unaccounted for or used on administration.

I would encourage those with that responsibility to give to act compassionately and wisely, with a commitment to continuity. I would also strongly encourage them to demand the checks that they would ask for themselves if it was their own money they were investing rather than that of the Jersey tax payer.

Yours truly,
Rose Helie