

KINDU GROUP

19 January 2007

Senator James Perchard,  
Scrutiny Office,  
States Greffe,  
Morier House,  
St Helier,  
Jersey,  
JE1 1DD

Dear Senator Perchard ,

Following a meeting of the Kindu Group last evening, and after some discussion, the following points arose in response to your requests regarding your Panel's terms of reference.

a) The upgrading of the Islands Overseas Aid budget in line with NGI.

We believe that the Island should honour the full 0.7% commitment in line with NGI in our giving towards Overseas Aid. This should be taken direct from the Island's budget and should not be off-set by contributions from charitable organisations. In this way, monies from charitable sources would then become an addition to the States contribution to Overseas Aid, and better reflect the ability of this Island to give.

b) The JOAC's policies and procedures for the distributing of its grant aid budget.

We appreciate the way that local charitable groups are supported, and consider the £ for £ initiative has been a good incentive, having ourselves been able to benefit others through it. We should like to see this continue, and to see further monies put into projects which can be fulfilled by those receiving the grants, with appropriate oversight from the donor organisations.

We believe that support should continue to be given to NGOs, and that the gifts should be clearly ear-marked (eg as we believe happened with Merlin where JOAC was able to put money into the provision of wells in Kalima, D.R.Congo.)

We understand the need for project requests from charitable groups to be clear-cut, measurable, and with finite goals in view, but would ask the Committee to look at the possibilities of making monies available for less material projects, such as for the education of people who are experiencing AIDs and HIV infections for the first time, and are

trying to set up procedures and small-group education in preparation for a fuller programme. This often involves transport costs in DRC for example. At a later date, the provision of more material goods would become involved such as medicine, bicycles, and shelter etc, but many of these projects find it very hard to get off the ground without the initial help.

c) The methods for measuring the effective utilisation of the JOAC's aid budget by recipients.

There should be some report back - possibly by some-one who can travel out to the area involved at a later date, or of a visit to Jersey of a representative of the recipients. In our case, we have often had responses from the treasurer of a group, or a leader who provides up-dates, usually by email. We are encouraged when we receive financial statements, and believe these should be asked for. Photographic evidence has also been provided with regard to buildings and activities. These are also an encouragement to those who give. Many of these things could be passed on to the JOAC by charitable groups.


At the outset, we support the request JOAC makes for recipient contributions towards projects to be made known, and, where possible, detailed. This sets the tone for the financial commitment to the project in hand, and for a continual up-dating on progress. Confirmation of maintenance procedures are also very important. We believe that reporting back is essential from recipients of aid, and from NGOs.

d) The Island's Overseas Aid contribution in comparison with other jurisdictions.

We feel that Jersey should press ahead without having to compare with other jurisdictions - yet should be very aware of the comfortable position we are in compared with so many other places in the world, and that Jersey is well-able to be generous.

In conclusion, we should like to say how much we have appreciated the help our Group has received from JOAC, and how pleased we have been to see the recent greater advertising of JOAC's work and the wider profile it's achieving in the Island. We would be further interested to see what other projects Jersey is supporting at this time.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the Kindu Group,



Jane Ilton  
(Chair)