# SNP MP calls for job security assurances for FCDO staff amid aid cuts



An SNP MP has urgently pressed the UK Government to provide immediate assurances regarding the job security of approximately 1,500 staff employed at the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) in East Kilbride, in light of alarming announcements concerning cuts to the foreign aid budget. This plea comes as the newly installed Labour government under Keir Starmer announces a potential downward spiral in aid spending to fund defence priorities.

Chris Law, the SNP's business, trade, and development spokesperson and MP for Dundee Central, expressed his dismay following the resignation of Anneliese Dodds as international development minister. This resignation, a clear signal of discontent with Labour's priorities, underscores the damaging implications of cuts that will cripple the government’s commitments to the world's most vulnerable.

Law articulated grave concerns for the staff at the East Kilbride office, once the headquarters of the Department for International Development (DFID), now being sacrificed on the altar of political expediency. “Urgent reassurance” is necessary for these workers, who face an uncertain future amidst brutal cutbacks justified in the name of bolstering defence budgets. He remarked, “Anneliese’s resignation reflects a principled stance against what can only be described as devastating cuts that will forsake the needs of those in dire situations, all in the name of Keir Starmer’s misguided leadership.”

Furthermore, he criticized the hollow promises of the Labour government, which had previously vowed to restore aid spending to 0.7% of gross national income — commitments that now appear abandoned as the government focuses on military expenditures. The ambitious plan to ramp up defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2027 raises serious questions about the ethical and moral obligations of the current administration towards international aid.

In a distressing development, development assistance is set to plummet from 0.5% to 0.3% of gross national income by 2027, unveiling the Labour government’s troubling priorities that blatantly disregard the plight of global communities reliant on UK support.

In light of these events, when asked about the FCDO's operations in Scotland, a UK Government spokesperson stated, “The FCDO remains committed to a long-term presence in Scotland,” a commitment that rings hollow amid the severe cuts to its funding. The electorate must hold this government accountable for its choices and their devastating ramifications on both domestic workers and international humanitarian responsibilities.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.civilserviceworld.com/professions/article/fcdo-east-kilbride-glasgow-move-delayed-abercrombie-queensway-house> - This article provides context about the FCDO's presence in East Kilbride, mentioning its long-term base at Abercrombie House and the recent decision to delay its move to Glasgow, which impacts job security and local economic stability.
* <https://www.devex.com/organizations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office-fcdo-158082> - This link offers information about the FCDO's role in promoting British interests globally and its commitment to diversity and inclusion, which contrasts with concerns about job security due to budget cuts.
* <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/anneliese-dodds-uk-government-snp-government-foreign-office-b2707004.html> - This article discusses the need for reassurance regarding job security at the Foreign Office, aligning with concerns raised by SNP MPs about the impact of aid cuts on FCDO staff.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-> - Unfortunately, this URL is incomplete and cannot be used. However, BBC News often covers UK government policies, including defence spending and foreign aid, which could provide relevant context.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office> - This official UK government website provides information about the FCDO's mission and operations, which can be used to understand the broader context of its role and potential impacts of budget cuts.