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THE KING
BY APPOINTMENT
SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

23 December 2008

DFID SUPPORT TO INWARD INVESTMENT IN BASRA

Thank you for your letter of 12 December setting out DfID's work in support of inward investment into Basra, for which the Prime Minister was grateful. Michael Wareing briefed Prime Minister Maliki on the contents of the letter, and handed over a copy of the Annex to your letter to Al-Rubaei.

You will have seen that, following his visit, the Prime Minister is even more convinced of the need to increase the opportunities for investment in the whole of Iraq, both to consolidate the security gains we have already made and also to ensure that British companies are able to benefit as opportunities arise. He has asked that UKTI begin urgent planning on an increased presence in Iraq, and has asked that UKTI consult closely with DfID and Michael Wareing.

Finally, I would be grateful for details of DfID plans for increasing economic advice in Baghdad as we transition to a new relationship with Iraq.

I am copying this letter to Tom Fletcher and Jeremy Heywood (No10), Jennifer Hepker, Simon McDonald and Tim Dowse (Cabinet Office), Richard Abel (BERR), Matthew Gould (FCO), Paul Rimmer (MOD), (HMT), Rory O'Donnell (DECC) PS/C, Christopher Prentice (Baghdad) and Nigel Haywood (Basra).

Yours ever


NICK CATSARAS

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