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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Minister of State, Department for International Development
1 Palace Street
London SW1E 5HE

7th August 2015

Our Reference. EH/HCB/WATSON/08/15

Grant Shapps
RE: Proposed visit of, Brigadier Hassan Mohamed Hussein, The Governor of Benadir & Mayor of Mogadishu.

I am writing to you in connection with the above, and as you will know from the correspondence sent to you from Robert Watson, the Director of Oakridge Global Limited, the Mayor of Mogadishu is hoping to come to London in the not too distant future.

I have known Robert Watson for some time, and I have agreed to assist in any way I can (but I stress for the avoidance of doubt that I have no financial interest in Oakridge or this visit. I am simply doing this as a former Minister for Africa, and as someone who is passionate about Somalia.)

I understand that the Mayor of London has agreed to a meeting, but it really would be worthwhile for you to see him as well, if only for a really brief half hour or so.

Indeed, if you were able to commit to a definite yes, then Oakridge could finesse the visit to fit in with your own programme.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Kind regards,

Henry Bellingham
Henry Bellingham M.P.

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87474 - response

29 September 2015

Your reference: EH/HCB/WATSON/08/15
Our reference: MIN/87474/2015

Henry Bellingham MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Minister of State

Dear Henry,

Thank you for your letter of 7 August about the possible visit of Brigadier Hassan Mohamed Hussein, the Governor of Benadir and Mayor of Mogadishu, to London.

Although I was not able to meet with the Mayor of Mogadishu myself, a joint meeting was arranged by Robert Watson, Director of Oakridge Global Limited, for the Directors of both the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development Somalia Units, to meet the Mayor on 17 September. On 25 August, Mr Watson reaffirmed that the Mayor was still available to meet on 17 September but final confirmation was dependent on the Mayor and a number of the party receiving their visas.

Since that time, Mr Watson has been in touch to advise us that he has received no further correspondence from the Mayor's office and has been unable to contact them, despite repeated attempts. As such, Mr Watson has had to draw the conclusion that the visit is no longer taking place. Officials have agreed to keep in touch with Mr Watson in case the situation changes.

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Minister of State

I did meet an individual who worked in the Mayor's office whilst I was in Mog.