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Foreign Aid

Thank you for contacting me about overseas aid.

A number of newspaper articles have reported claims that misrepresent or inaccurately portray projects supported by the UK, or focus on projects that are no longer funded.

Spending 0.7 per cent of gross national income on assistance to developing nations and international emergencies helps deliver a more secure and prosperous UK, while having a life-saving impact on the ground. However, the Government is determined to make sure that our aid is spent where it is most needed and all spending is rigorously checked as programmes progress. The aid budget is taxpayers' money and we politicians have a duty to spend it well.

Since 2010, the Government has been working hard to make sure that British aid ends up where it should. It has taken steps to make our aid spending more accountable and focused, by reforming the UK's aid strategy, cutting wasteful programmes and making sure spending is firmly in the UK's national interest. However, more improvements can still be made and I am assured that the Secretary of State is dedicated to making sure the aid budget serves the world's poorest people, but also the taxpayers.

The British people are incredibly generous and at its best the global aid system does fantastic lifesaving work, supporting Syrian refugees, giving life-saving aid to stop people dying of hunger in East Africa, and vaccinating children against preventable diseases. These achievements also make us safer: disasters, conflicts and diseases don't pay attention to national borders, so action needs to be taken before problems grow and threaten the UK.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP