



## Craig Whittaker MP

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### **Response to Water and Sanitation (WaterAid) (World Toilet Day/World Water Day) – March 2017**

Thank you for contacting me about water and sanitation.

Access to clean drinking water and effective sanitation is a basic human need and is vital to give people in developing countries the opportunity to lead healthy, fulfilled, and productive lives. It means they can work, driving economic growth and ultimately helping developing countries become self-sufficient.

Between 2011 and 2015, the Department for International Development (DFID) helped 64.5 million people access clean water, better sanitation or improved hygiene conditions. DFID helps build wells, standpipes, pumps, toilets and sewage systems, and encourages the private sector in developing countries to do more. My ministerial colleagues are intent on matching this success by helping at least another 60 million people get access to clean water and sanitation by 2020, to stop terrible diseases and boost economic opportunity. This was a 2015 Conservative manifesto commitment.

I welcome the adoption of the Global Goals in 2015. The UK successfully pushed for Goal 6 on water and sanitation for everyone. The global community must work to achieve this and other goals by 2030, so that in the next 15 years we see access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, and access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all.

A more healthy, productive and prosperous world is clearly in our national interest, and access to water and sanitation is a key part of this.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP