



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

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UK Development Aid

Thank you for contacting me about our aid budget.

The UK's development budget is both an important part of securing Britain's place in the world and the morally right policy to pursue in itself. Aid has the power to end disease, hunger and extreme poverty, to build strong economies and to help the world's most vulnerable people. But it also helps us to influence and shape the world around us. 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.

Whether it's stepping up our support for desperate Syrian refugees, tackling the lethal legacy of landmines or giving life-saving aid to stop people dying of hunger in East Africa, UK aid is keeping Britain safe while helping the world's poorest people develop the resilience and resources needed so that they can lift themselves out of poverty.

Overseas development assistance saves lives and opens up life-enhancing opportunities. Over the last five years, UK aid has been life-saving and life-changing for millions of the poorest people around the world. Between 2011 and 2015, the Department for International Development (DFID) has supported over 11 million children in school and helped more than 60 million people get access to clean water, better sanitation and improved hygiene conditions. DFID is also leading the global effort to save millions of girls from child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Whittaker'.

Craig Whittaker MP