



Department
for International
Development



Rory Stewart OBE MP
Minister of State

To supporters of Global Citizen's campaign in support of UK Aid

November 2016

Thank you for your recent emails to the Foreign Secretary, highlighting your support for the UK Aid budget. I am responding as Minister at the Department for International Development (DFID) who leads on the issue raised.

It has never been clearer that our national security and long-term economic prosperity depend on greater prosperity and security in the wider world. If we allow extreme poverty, instability and humanitarian crises to go unchecked, the consequences will eventually be felt just as deeply back in Britain as they are abroad. Fighting extreme poverty is in Britain's national interest.

The Government is proud of the UK's leading role on international development and has reaffirmed the UK's commitment to spend 0.7% of our national income on aid. This manifesto commitment is enshrined in law and alongside our commitment to spend 2% on defence – plays a vital part in delivering this Government's vision of a secure and prosperous United Kingdom, with global reach and influence. I believe UK aid has a life-saving impact on the ground but that the only long term solution to poverty is jobs and growth. I will ensure the aid budget does this and represents good value for those paying the bill.

Many thanks for your support. Further information about DFID's activities and approach to poverty reduction is set out in DFID's latest Annual Report at www.gov.uk/dfid

RORY STEWART