



Department
for International
Development



Harriett Baldwin MP
Minister of State

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Supporters of the Tearfund Campaign

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Thank you for contacting DFID about Tearfund's recent campaign to increase the proportion of aid spent on waste management systems in developing countries as a response to the marine litter crisis. The Prime Minister has given strong leadership on tackling the problem of plastic waste, highlighting the Government's commitments in the 25-year Environment Plan to reduce our use of plastic, and being clear that we will work internationally to step up global action.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to helping the world's poorest, and this means taking on global problems like pollution and climate change, which go hand-in-hand in the fight against poverty. DFID is playing a key role working with other departments to deliver the Government's objectives on reducing plastic in the oceans. Our approach aims both to reduce the amount of plastic, working with businesses for example, and also to improve waste management in poorer countries.

DFID is already making a difference in tackling plastics waste. We provide funding to several multilateral funds that are working with countries to improve their waste management. This includes the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF also has a programme specifically targeting plastic waste in the oceans.

DFID is also funding some work directly, for example in Sierra Leone where we have helped establish waste collection services for the first time. We are looking at what more we can do – be that supporting waste management services in our partner countries, funding research to find new ways of tackling the problem, or funding UK charities with a strong track record of working successfully in this area.

DFID do not intend to set a spending target on waste management however we are working with Ministerial colleagues to identify new and innovative ways to address the environmental challenge of plastics waste. The Prime Minister has committed to raising this issue with international partners at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London later this month.

HARRIETT BALDWIN