



Department
for International
Development



Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State

Mr Hugh Evans
Chief Executive, Global Citizen
Suite 207
594 Broadway
New York
NY, 10012

Our ref: 170906

9 August 2017

Dear Mr Evans,

I am grateful to members of the Global Citizen Campaign for writing to me in support of DFID's work on polio eradication.

We are closer than we have ever been to eradicating polio, making it the second disease in history, after smallpox, to be eradicated. When the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was created in 1988, polio paralysed more than 1,000 children worldwide every day. Today, only three countries – Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria – have polio and there have only been eight cases in 2017. But the job is not yet done and, together, we must now renew our collective efforts for the final push.

This is why the UK has stepped up into a strong leadership role and committed an additional £100 million towards polio eradication, on top of the £300 million we committed between 2013 and 2018. This re-enforces the UK's leading role in ensuring this dreadful disease is removed from the world, and we now expect others to step up and make sure polio eradication is fully financed. The additional UK contribution will save up to 65,000 children from paralysis every year, reducing the burdens on health systems in poor countries and enabling people to live healthier and more productive lives.

UK Aid has helped bring us close to the finishing line – a world free from polio.

Thank you again to all of those supporting this cause.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Priti Patel", written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State