



Department
for International
Development



Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State

Supporters of the “ending the World Bank
energy restrictions campaign”

Our ref:

173529

// October 2017

Dear Supporters of the “ending World Bank energy restrictions campaign”,

Thank you for your emails from 9 October about energy restrictions and the World Bank.

The UK is committed to tackling climate change internationally and supports the deployment of clean and renewable energy. However, we also recognise that governments will need to continue to use a mix of energy sources, including fossil fuels such as natural gas as part of the transition towards low greenhouse gas emission economies and whilst ensuring reliable and affordable energy for families and businesses.

Earlier this year, I launched DFID’s Economic Development Strategy which notes the need to focus on helping meet businesses’ rising energy needs, ensure affordable energy access for the poor and enhance environmental sustainability in energy use.

The UK promotes a combination of grid-connected power generation and off-grid, decentralised power for households, businesses and communities. Larger, grid-connected power stations can be best suited to meeting the energy needs of business. Off-grid decentralised renewable energy, for example through solar power, is an important way to increase access to electricity for people in rural areas. In the last five years, UK Aid provided 12 million people with improved access to clean energy.

My Department continues to work closely with the World Bank to help countries secure the affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy supply needed to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity. The World

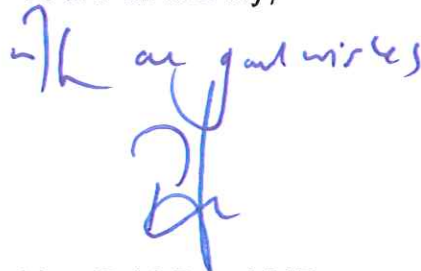
Bank is responding to the global challenge of balancing energy for development with its impact on climate change.

On coal, the UK will only consider proposals by the World Bank and other multilateral development banks for financing coal-fired power plants in the world's poorest countries where no other economically feasible alternative exists. These will be considered on an individual basis, for example where there is a compelling poverty reduction case.

As you rightly note, taxpayers' money must be spent on projects that give the world's poorest a better life and allow their countries to grow and develop. The UK position and DFID practical support is doing exactly that.

Thank you for writing to me on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
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