



Department
for International
Development



Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
Minister of State

[Name here]
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref
Your ref:

Month 201X

Dear [name here]

Thank you for your letter of 28 November, enclosing an e-mail from your constituent, XXXX of XXXX about eradicating pneumonia. This has been passed to me for my response, as global health forms part of my ministerial responsibilities.

As XXXX notes, childhood pneumonia is a disease that affects the poorest and it is the biggest cause of child deaths through infectious disease. The UK is firmly committed to tackling diseases of poverty such as childhood pneumonia. As immunising children is the most effective way to prevent pneumonia, it is vital that pneumococcal conjugate vaccines are available to all or at least the poorest. This is one of Gavi's strategic objectives which the UK actively supports. The UK is the largest funder of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which delivers the pneumococcal vaccine to developing countries. Between 2010 and 2016, 109 million children received the vaccine with Gavi support, saving an estimated 762,000 lives. The UK also supports Gavi's innovative financing instrument, the Pneumococcal Advance Market Commitment, which accelerated the development of pneumococcal vaccines to meet developing country needs and significantly reduced the price of vaccines, enabling 58 countries to introduce the vaccine.

The UK's work to address child pneumonia focuses on four main areas: prevention through the use of vaccines; support to countries to strengthen health systems; support to tackle malnutrition; and discrete projects to improve child health. The underlying causes of pneumonia deaths are rooted in the risks that come from poverty and marginalisation and from inadequate health systems. Prompt effective care is very important for children with pneumonia. DFID supports the strengthening of health systems, helping to ensure that countries are better able to deal with all causes of ill health including pneumonia, and to provide effective and timely treatment for cases that arise. We also support improved nutrition, which helps to make children less vulnerable to pneumonia.

Please thank XXXX for the interest he has shown in helping to end childhood deaths from pneumonia globally by 2030.

ALISTAIR BURT