



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

27th June 2018

Jaw Conchment,

RE: EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Thank you for contacting me recently about education in developing countries; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

Investing in education is in all our interests, as education provides children with the best route out of poverty, giving them the power to improve their own lives and their country, and ultimately reduce developing countries' reliance on aid. Globally, we must push for education for both girls and boys, as evidence shows that when a girl in the developing world receives seven or more years of education, it has a positive impact – she marries later and has fewer and healthier children, and is more likely to be economically productive.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is helping to educate millions of girls; the UK was a co-founder of 'Education Cannot Wait', a fund to deliver quality education for children living in emergency and conflict settings. DFID also supports girls' education through bilateral programmes, such as the 'Girls' Education in South Sudan' programme, which has reached over 185,000 girls. The UK has committed £212 million for the second phase of the 'Girls' Education Challenge', to ensure that almost a million girls across the Commonwealth can get the quality education they need to fulfil their potential.

Between 2011 and 2015, DFID supported over 11 million children, including 5.3 million girls, in primary and lower secondary education in developing countries. The Government has committed to helping at least another 11 million children in the poorest countries gain a decent education by 2020. DFID is on track to deliver this, having supported 7.1 million children to gain a decent education between 2015 and 2017. This is a huge investment in a better future for these children.

However, it is not just about having the chance to go to school; children must be well taught and what they learn must improve their opportunities in life. While 89 percent of children are now in school, many teachers are not properly equipped to teach basic knowledge and skills; over 330 million children are expected to leave primary school without having learned how to read or complete basic maths. DFID's new education policy focuses on raising teaching quality, helping national governments improve teacher recruitment and training, so that no child's potential is wasted.

The Secretary of State for International Development, the Rt. Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, recently pledged £225 million to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) (£75 million a year, for three years). The UK remains one of the biggest donors to the GPE; this pledge marks an almost 50 percent increase in our annual contribution, and will keep 880,000 children in school each year and train 170,000 teachers. One third of the funding will be conditional on GPE focussing on achieving key improvements in countries' education systems.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.



with best wishes,

Tom

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**