

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

26th November 2020

New Contact,

RE: UK SPENDING ON OVERSEAS AID.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding the UK's spending on overseas aid; your comments upon which I have read with great interest, and you can be assured I have raised your concerns directly with Ministers.

This country has been, and always will be, open and outward-looking, leading the way in solving the world's toughest problems and striving to be a force for good on the international stage. Whether it is stepping up to support Syrians and Yemenis in conflict zones, leading the way in eradicating Ebola and Malaria, or supporting millions of children to receive a decent education, Ministers are proud that UK aid is keeping this country safe, whilst also helping the world's poorest stand on their own two feet.

However, at this time of unprecedented crisis, tough choices must be made, which is why the Chancellor has announced a temporary reduction in the UK's aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of the UK's national income, as part of the recently announced Spending Review. To put that in context, the UK will spend more than £10 billion next year to fight poverty, tackle climate change and improve global health. Specifically, Ministers have been clear that we are categorically not stepping back from our global role in the world and we will:

- Still be the second most generous aid spender in the G7 - higher than France, Italy, Japan, Canada and the United States;
- Maintain the third largest diplomatic network in the world;
- Remain a world leader on global health, building on the £1.6 billion we have already committed to GAVI, the global vaccine alliance;
- Utilise our £24 billion defence investment to stand up for the forces of democracy and freedom.

Finally, and importantly given your concerns, I am sure you will be pleased to know that the UK will return to 0.7% when the fiscal situation allows - as Ministers have repeatedly made clear.

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 PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE