



Department
for International
Development



Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
Minister of State

Rt Hon George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: 188636

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Dear George,

Thank you for your email of 29 October to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituents about the Global Financing Facility (GFF). I am replying as the Minister who leads on global health policy.

We share your constituents' concerns about the severe impact of pneumonia, which Save the Children has brought to the world's attention. May I assure your constituents that DFID is active in this area. As immunising children is the most effective way to prevent pneumonia, it is vital that pneumococcal conjugate vaccines are available to all, and especially the poorest. 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. We also support 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.

I appreciate your constituents' requests that the UK refinance the GFF as a means to assist countries strengthen their health system to be better able to address childhood disease. The UK is an existing donor to the GFF, committing £30 million during the London Family Planning summit in 2017. The GFF supports many of the UK priority areas – reproductive health, maternal, newborn and child health (thus fighting pneumonia).

I am therefore delighted to let you know that the UK has committed, subject to continued progress, to provide a further £50 million to the GFF. This will help save the lives of mothers and children in the poorest parts of the world. I hope this reassures your constituents of the UK's continued international leadership in this important area.

ALISTAIR BURT