



Department  
for International  
Development



Nick Hurd MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

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

13 June 2016

Dear George,

Thank you for your email of 2 June to Justine Greening, writing on behalf of your constituents about the importance of clean water and high quality sanitation. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for the issues raised.

The UK Government feels strongly that access to clean and safe water, sanitation and hygiene are among the most basic of human needs. The importance of meeting the need for water and sanitation led the UK to commit in 2012 to supporting 60million people to gain access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene by December 2015. I am pleased to say that we met this commitment in April 2015 – nine months early – due to our determination and hard work.

In the UK Aid strategy, which can be found on our website at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-aid-tackling-global-challenges-in-the-national-interest](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-aid-tackling-global-challenges-in-the-national-interest), we have demonstrated this by committing to help a further 60million people to access to water and sanitation by 2020. DFID does not pre-set budget allocations for water and sanitation, however, we will ensure that we use our programmes to build the capacity of local and national governments, civil society and the private sector to deliver sustainable, high quality public services in the countries where we work. We will ensure that the funds required to meet these commitments, and ensure sustained access, are provided to the Country Offices and Departments implementing programmes.

Yours  
Nick.