



Department
for International
Development



Nick Hurd MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Caroline Lucas MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

1 July 2016

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter of 9 June to Justine Greening (ref: ML.C0013.CM.09.06.16), about the Global Goals, and in particular 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 60 million 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, we have demonstrated this by committing to help a further 60million people to access water and sanitation by 2020. 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 this commitment and ensure sustained access are provided to the Country Offices and Departments implementing programmes. DFID does not pre-set budget allocations for water and sanitation.

The UK will continue to champion Agenda 2030 internationally and achievement of the 0.7% will be the foundation of our achievement. I note your reference to the IDC recommendation regarding the International Development Acts on which the government will comment as part of its official response to the IDC report on the SDGs in due course.

I hope that this assures you and your constituents that the Government is serious about our commitment to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Yours
Nick.

NICK HURD