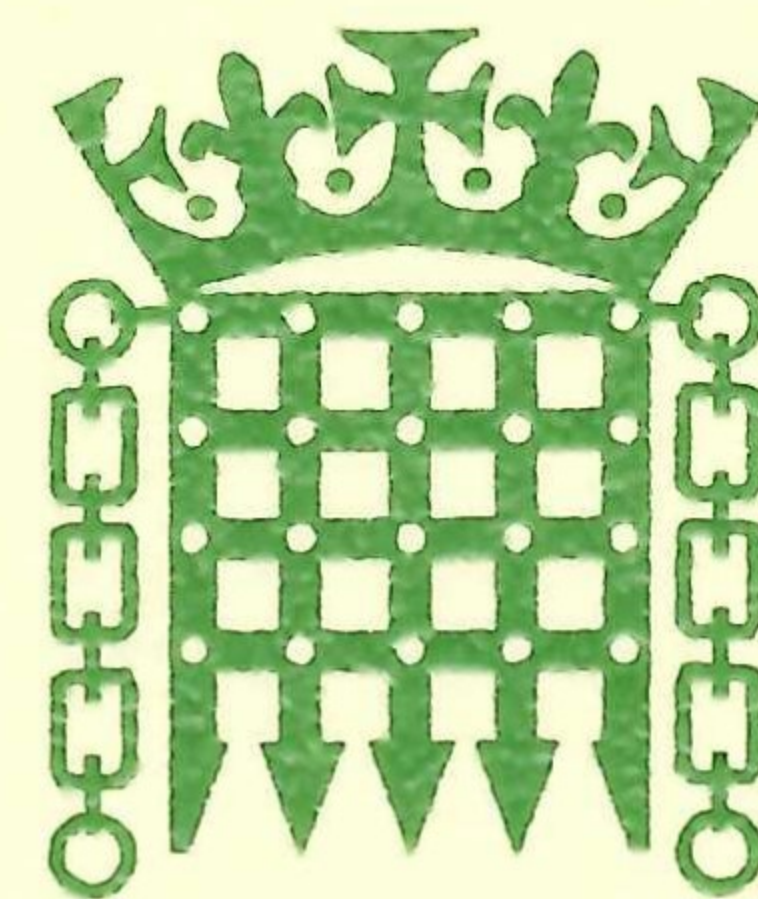


PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

April 2021

Dear Constituent

Thank you for your email about UK spending on overseas aid.

This country has been and always will be open and outward-looking, leading in solving the world's toughest problems and striving to be a force for good in the world. Whether it's stepping up to support desperate Syrians and Yemenis in conflict zones, leading the way in eradicating Ebola and malaria, or supporting millions of children to gain a decent education. Indeed I am informed that over the last 10 years, the UK has spent over £108 billion on foreign aid. I am proud that UK aid is keeping the UK safe while helping the world's poorest stand on their own two feet.

At this time of unprecedented crisis however, tough choices must be made, which is why the Chancellor has announced a temporary reduction in the UK's aid budget from 0.7 per cent to 0.5 per cent of the UK's national income. I want to stress that this move is only temporary. Ministers have assured me that the UK will return to 0.7 per cent when the fiscal situation allows and I will be following this closely.

The seismic impact of the Covid pandemic has forced the Government to take this action. I am, however, encouraged that the UK will spend more than £10 billion next year to fight poverty, tackle climate change and improve global health. I understand that, based on the latest OECD data, the UK would remain the second highest donor in the G7 despite the necessary cut. In a statement to Parliament, Dominic Raab set out how this money will be spent in a more efficient, targeted manner to ensure that UK aid will continue to make a world-leading difference across the globe.

I want to assure you that the United Kingdom remains out there every day, our people, on the ground in the disaster zones, in the refugee camps, tackling famine and drought, helping lift people out of poverty, striving to resolve conflicts and build a more hopeful future for millions of people struggling and striving against the odds. Even in the toughest economic times, we will continue that mission, we will continue to lead.

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

*Yours Sincerely
Peter Gibson*

PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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