



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 August 2008

Dear Ms Horton

Thank you for your letter regarding the impacts of climate change on the world's poorest people. I was interested to read about the campaign that Practical Action ran at the Glastonbury Festival.

You asked what the Government is doing to help people in the world's poorest countries adapt to climate change. The UK recognises that climate change will be felt most by those least well-equipped to cope. I believe that development is the best way of enabling poorer countries to be more prepared to deal with the impacts of climate change.

I also recognise that addressing the impacts of climate change will require significant additional finance. Exactly how much is not yet known, which is why the UK's Department for International Development is funding research with the Dutch government into the costs of climate change adaptation.

However, action on climate change cannot wait. That is why the UK has led the way in committing substantial funding, including:

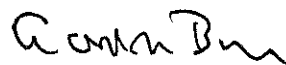
- £100 million to research climate change over the next 5 years plus a further £5 million for improving climate knowledge in Africa;
- £20 million to the UN Special Funds to help developing countries to adapt to climate change, where we are the largest contributor; and

- £800 million to the Climate Investment Funds – roughly one third of which will be spent on helping developing countries to integrate climate resilience into their development plans.

We are also working with civil society, including Practical Action, to support climate change adaptation on the ground.

As well as increasing developing countries' resilience to the effects of climate change, the UK is also striving for a fair global deal on mitigating the worst effects of climate change. The UK is also working to ensure that developing countries have a voice in this new global deal and that climate change mitigation is consistent with growth and poverty reduction in developing countries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ms Lucy Horton



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

www.number10.gov.uk

From the Direct Communications Unit

2 September 2008

Dear Ms Horton

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your recent letter and enclosure about access to safe water and basic sanitation for developing countries.

The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets for water and sanitation are important objectives in themselves, but they are also closely linked to the achievement of the MDG targets in health, reduction in child mortality and promoting women's empowerment. It is for all these reasons that we attach great importance to more and better development assistance for water and sanitation, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where the MDG targets for access to these basic services are so far off-track. The UK, through the Department for International Development, (DFID) is committed to doing more to help.

DFID is committed to increasing our efforts to improve access to water and sanitation. The Government has doubled funding for water to Africa to £95 million per year during 2007/08 with a further commitment of doubling to £200 million per year by 2011. We are focusing on the most off-track countries in Africa, namely the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Sudan.

DFID's Global Call for Action on Water and Sanitation, published in 2006, identifies what the world must do to increase access to water and sanitation. It highlights that the Government must ensure money is spent more effectively and to ensure the right structures are put in place to make better progress.

The Government is pushing for better co-ordination of international aid for water and sanitation, working together with partners to achieve common objectives. For example, we proposed the need for an annual

high level global meeting to decide on action on water and sanitation and to check that commitments by industrialised and developing countries are being met. I am pleased to confirm that donors and developing countries agreed to support these ideas at the International Monetary Fund/World Bank spring meetings (April 2007) and that the first high level annual meeting is due to take place in New York on 24 September 2008; linked to the UN High Level Event on the MDGs that will take place on 25 September 2008.

It is truly shocking that 5,000 children die each day for the lack of access to safe water and basic sanitation facilities. The Government is committed to increase its efforts in water and sanitation and to influence others to ensure this waste of life is radically reduced. 2008, the International Year of Sanitation, provides us with a unique opportunity to achieve this.

In March 2008 DFID published the fourth update on work in water and sanitation entitled 'Meeting our promises', a copy of which is available on their website at <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/4th-update-water-action-plan.pdf>. Further information on the Government's work in this area can be found on the DFID website at www.dfid.gov.uk.

More widely than water, the Prime Minister and the Government have been leading international efforts to galvanise the international community in the run up to the special UN summit on 25 September. We must keep our promises to halve global poverty, get all children into school, and dramatically cut infant and maternal mortality rates.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in Davies.

MR M DAVIES

Ms Lucy Horton