



Foreign, Commonwealth
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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
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Dear George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 September to the Foreign Secretary, on behalf of a number of your constituents including about the ODA cuts to malnutrition. I am replying as the Minister who leads on Nutrition.

I agree firmly that tackling malnutrition in the poorest countries of the world is key for ending preventable deaths and ensuring children get the best start in life. Prevention and treatment of malnutrition remains important for the UK as part of our work on global health, humanitarian response and in support of our goals on girls' education. The ongoing threat of famine is a focus of the UK's G7 Presidency with the UK's Special Envoy on Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Affairs leading efforts address acute hunger in countries where conflict, COVID-19 and other factors have increased risk. We are continuing to deliver programmes to prevent and treat malnutrition in countries facing these crises, such as Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

We are continuing to work closely with the Government of Japan to ensure the 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit achieves meaningful new commitments to address malnutrition. As you are aware, due to the seismic impact of the pandemic on the UK economy, the government has taken tough but necessary decisions, including the temporary reduction in the aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of national income. The Government is actively considering its approach to the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit and will set this out following the conclusion of the Spending Review.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Morton

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