

Reply from DFID – 6th February 2014

Written by Administrator
Saturday, 08 February 2014 21:17 -

Thank you for your letter to Justine Greening dated 10th December 2013, and your recognition of the good work UK Aid is doing in Zimbabwe. I have been asked to reply as I work in the Department for International Development (DFID) on the Zimbabwe programme. I hope the following go towards alleviating the concerns you raise around the UK's development assistance in Zimbabwe.

Please let me assure you that DFID remains committed to making sure funds are available for humanitarian relief. Our new £15 million 2014-2015 Humanitarian Programme will work to build the resilience of the people of Zimbabwe to help them to better respond to future shocks. It will help ensure that future disasters don't push the Zimbabwean population into crises.

On the issue of how UK funds are spent Zimbabwe, UK policy is that no UK aid is put directly through Government of Zimbabwe systems.

We implement all our projects, including our humanitarian support, through multilateral organizations, notably United Nations agencies, international NGOs and the private sector to deliver projects in a coordinated way with the rest of the international system. We expect all our implementing partners to meet high standards of financial management and accounting to achieve strong expected results, at best value for money.

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The £80,000 you refer to in your letter was routed through a ring-fenced account held by the Government of Zimbabwe in contravention of DFID's funding policy in Zimbabwe. DFID is strengthening its programme controls to ensure that there can be no repeat of this kind of mistake in future. However, I can confirm that this money was used appropriately and as intended for a fruit fly eradication project to promote trade and reduce poverty.

We will continue to rigorously monitor every penny of UK aid being used to help the people of Zimbabwe and will undertake robust due diligence on all our implementing partners.