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David Hunt

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During questions on Wednesday 2 October, I promised to follow up with more detail on questions raised by Noble Lords as I was unable to do so at the time.

Lord Elton asked about targeting aid. All our programmes in Pakistan target the poor, regardless of race, religion, social background or nationality. We know, and our NGO partners have confirmed, that our focus on the poorest and most marginalised ensures that we benefit minority groups. However, it is hard to get reliable data about the impact of our programme on minorities and other groups who may fear discrimination. DFID Pakistan is striving to better disaggregate its results through a data disaggregation action plan which focuses on four key areas: sex, age, disability and geography. This will improve our understanding of who benefits from our programmes. For now, we only collect data on minority status when there is a specific need for it, for example for our programmes which specifically aim at helping minority groups. We recently had some success in collecting more and better-quality data on people with disabilities in Pakistan. We learned from that and will build on it to focus our energy on collecting data from other vulnerable and minority groups.

Lord Elton also asked whether UK aid was used in a way that did not support the rule of law, and Baroness Smith of Basildon asked whether CSSF programmes could be supporting the use of the death penalty. The Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) takes its responsibility to do no harm very seriously. All CSSF programmes comply with the UK's domestic and international human rights obligations and have robust measures in place to protect human rights. The UK opposes the death penalty in all circumstances, and we are confident that our Rule of Law programme was delivered in a way that is consistent with our opposition to the death penalty. Further information on the aims and successes of the Rule of Law programme is available on the UK Parliament website:

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/national-security-strategy-committee/conflict-stability-and-security-fund-annual-report-201718/written/97533.html>

Lord West asked about how we ensure that aid is not diverted due to corruption. DFID has a zero-tolerance policy to fraud, bribery and corruption. This is regularly communicated to organisations we fund and work with, including Government counterparts in Pakistan. Alongside this policy, we have third party validation of results achieved using DFID funds in Pakistan. This provides reassurance that DFID funds are being used for the intended purpose of helping the most vulnerable members of society.

Baroness Sheehan asked about the Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development (CREID). This programme, funded through UK Aid Connect, will work with faith groups, NGOs and academics to promote religious diversity, with a focus on helping countries around the world to embed freedom of religion. It is managed and overseen by DFID and further details can be found on our development tracker under UK Aid Connect.

I hope you find this letter helpful. I will also send a copy to those Peers who spoke to the question and will place a copy in the House Library.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patrick', written in dark ink.

Earl of Courtown

Lord Harries of Pentregarth
House of Lords