

Rt Hon DAVID CAMERON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The Venerable Michael Lawson
1 Regents Park Terrace
London NW1 7EE

Tuesday, 9th June 2009
DC/EY

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michael Lawson'.

Thank you very much for your recent letter on behalf of the Church of England Evangelical Council. I am so sorry for the long delay in replying to you.

I am pleased that you have raised these issues with me. I think that now, more than ever, developed countries must live up to their commitments on aid to poorer countries. We should be reaffirming our pledges, not rowing back from them.

As you know, we have pledged that a future Conservative Government would spend 0.7 per cent of national income as aid by 2013, and sticking to that is important. But in these tough times, we need to make sure that every penny spent on aid is used effectively, and so we have to find ways of delivering more for less. That's why we will establish an Independent Aid Watchdog to provide impartial and objective analysis of the effectiveness of British aid. This will allow us to spend more on what works – and end funding for the things that don't.

The Millennium Development Goals are hugely important and the international community needs to keep up energy and momentum in working towards them. We will keep up the pressure on other countries to do everything they can to make sure these Goals can be achieved. And we are also going to work hard to ensure that our international aid organisations are more effective and efficient

The key thing in all this is that we are not going to come through this recession by turning in ourselves, or by looking for cheap fixes at the expense of our neighbours or faraway friends. Just as we are all part of One Nation here in Britain, so we need to understand that Britain is itself part of One World – and keeping up our commitments on aid, trade and development is a big part of that.

Many thanks, again, for getting in touch.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Cameron'.

David Cameron