

NIGEL WATERSON MP
(EASTBOURNE)



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Barry Mansergh Esq
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2nd July 2009

NW/LDP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dear Barry'.

Thank you for your letter in which you request a comprehensive statement of Conservative policy regarding climate change, trade justice and aid to developing countries. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I can assure you that as a practising Christian, as well as a Conservative, I take these issues very seriously indeed.

Climate Change

Conservatives are deeply committed to limiting the global impact of climate change and will work to that end, should we be elected to Government. During the passage of the Climate Change Bill, Conservatives tried to make the Bill stronger by:

- Introducing provisions for mandatory carbon reporting for large businesses from April, 2012.
- Enhancing the duties to address climate change adaptation, including the formation of an Adaptation Sub Committee to the Committee on Climate Change, to assess the risks to the UK from climate change impacts and how the UK can best adapt to them.
- Putting a duty upon the Government to set a limit on the number of carbon units it would be allowed to buy from abroad, so as to ensure that a significant proportion of the effort in meeting our carbon budgets is made at home.

These suggestions were voted down, but it will I hope reassure you to know that they came from the Party which is likely to be responsible for the implementation of the Climate Change Act in its critical early stages.

Trade Justice

The Conservative priority here is to reinvigorate the Doha Round of international trade talks. The world economic crisis poses a grave threat, and we must avoid a repeat of the 1930s when economic crisis led to a retreat into beggar-my-neighbour protectionism with catastrophic consequences. Now more than ever is the time to champion a free, open and fairer trading system, and we will put political energy and capital into doing so.

- We will also take measures to strengthen the legitimacy of the World Trade Organisation, for example by establishing an Advocacy Fund which would help poor

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countries field the expert analysts and negotiators that they need to participate in and benefit fully from trade negotiations.

- In the meantime, it is of course essential to support poor food producers in developing countries. To this end, I very much support the fair trade movement. Fair trade is a thoroughly Conservative concept; we believe in using our purchasing power to send a signal to the market, and the Fair Trade scheme and other ethical consumer brands allow consumers voluntarily to send a market signal about the conditions in which they want their food to be produced.

Foreign Aid

Conservatives are keen to secure faster progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. We will:

- Focus on tackling killer diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB.
- Keep DfID as an independent department.
- Further reform the EU's protectionist Common Agricultural Policy, abolishing all remaining production-linked subsidies, scrapping import tariffs and removing all export subsidies.
- Promote international trade agreements and debt relief to benefit poor countries.
- Support an International Arms Trade Treaty.
- Investigate aid vouchers to be put directly in the hands of poor communities, redeemable for development services of any kind with an aid agency or supplier of their choice.
- Establish an Independent Aid Watchdog to provide objective evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of British aid spending. This will help ensure that every pound of aid money delivers 100 pence of value to the poorest in the world.

Finally, you asked me if I am willing to attend a meeting during the General Election campaign to debate these issues. My answer in principle is of course "Yes". However, it is normal for Churches Together to organise a candidates' debate and I always happy to attend this event. To avoid duplication, you may wish to liaise with them. I would not wish the issues debated to be restricted to those mentioned in your letter, important though they are.

It is of course important to agree a date for any such debate as soon as possible once an election is called. No doubt someone would be in touch with my constituency office at that time.

I hope this is helpful. I assume you will pass on copies of this letter to Clare and Geoffrey.

With best wishes.



NIGEL WATERSON

Member of Parliament for Eastbourne, Willingdon and East Dean

Please visit my website: www.nigelwaterson.com

ADDENDUM TO NIGEL WATERSON'S LETTER OF 2ND JULY

In a further letter of 22nd July Nigel Waterson drew attention to the recently launched Conservative Green paper on International Development. The full text of this can be found at www.conservatives.com/oneworld

The Green Paper celebrates the clear successes of aid, such as the elimination of smallpox, the near eradication of polio and the Green Revolution. But is candid about the problems of corruption, bureaucracy and mismanagement that have beset so much of the official 'aid industry' and sets tough policies to ensure value for money in British aid:

An Independent Aid watchdog to scrutinise the outcomes and impact of aid programmes and projects.

A new emphasis on wealth creation and **private –sector led development**.

Cutting the number of countries that receive aid so as to focus on those that really need our help, and abolishing aid to China.

Results Based Aid to governments in poor countries: only handing over the money once we see independently-audited evidence that children have actually been educated and health care provided.

Performance-related funding

For multilaterals like the UN and World Bank: giving them more cash if they can prove they are achieving results on the ground; cutting off funding if they can't.

A non-ideological approach to providing health and education, working with the **private, not-for profit and public sectors** to secure access for all, regardless of wealth.

Exploring new ways to make aid **more responsive and accountable** to people in poor countries.

A new **My aid fund** to build public support for aid giving taxpayers a say over where and how it is spent.

An immediate review of our aid programme in **Afghanistan and Pakistan**, to improve its effectiveness in support of the wider British strategy there.

Steps to ensure that DFID dovetails more effectively with our **military and political** efforts in conflict zones.