
Director General for Regulation

Matthew Rycroft
Permanent Secretary
Department for International Development

12th April 2018

Dear Mr Rycroft

We have received a complaint from Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP about a misleading statement regarding your Department's pledge on aid funding for Global Partnerships for Education (GPE) made in the press release¹ of 2 February 2018.

The news release inappropriately claimed that the Department had increased funding of GPE by 50%, compared with its previous replenishment. This claim was not made on an equivalent basis, comparing the amount pledged with the amount previously paid. The pledges for the last two periods have been the same at £75 million a year.

The Department's actions may undermine confidence in the Department as a producer of statistics and data. The *Code of Practice for Statistics*² requires official statistics producer organisations demonstrate honesty and integrity in handling data and statistics. It also expects the orderly release of statistics, including their accuracy and impartiality, and emphasises the importance of independent decision making regarding statistics.

I would ask that you raise awareness within DfID about responsibilities for appropriate handling and use of statistics under the *Code of Practice for Statistics*. I would encourage your press office to seek the advice of the Department's Chief Statistician before issuing such statements in future. You may find it helpful to share this guidance note³ among your staff.

I am copying this letter to Neil Jackson, Chief Statistician at DfID.

Your sincerely



Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation

¹ <https://dfidnews.blog.gov.uk/2018/02/02/replenishment-of-global-partnership-for-education/>

² <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/>

³ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Code-one-pager-all-staff.pdf>