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Julian Sturdy MP
House of Commons
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24 August 2022

Dear Julian,

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 August about the joint inquiry from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) into the link between AMR and WASH in healthcare settings.

The FCDO recognises the important role of sanitation and hygiene behaviours and facilities in infection prevention and control, and specifically the role of improved WASH in tackling AMR in healthcare facilities globally. The UK has supported community WASH programmes in more than 20 countries and since 2015, the FCDO supported 62.6 million people in developing countries to gain access to clean water or better sanitation. Recently, the UK-Unilever hand-hygiene partnership has reached over 1.2 billion people in 37 countries with handwashing messaging, supported 14,800 healthcare facilities with critical WASH supplies and services and trained 460,000 health and other key workers on hygiene practices.

In December 2021, the FCDO published an approach paper on Ending the Preventable Deaths of Mothers, Babies and Children by 2030, to outline the approach for delivering 2019 manifesto commitment on ending preventable deaths. The paper highlights the importance of WASH services to global health, and stresses the need for WASH services in primary healthcare facilities.

I look forward to seeing the recommendations of the inquiry in the Autumn and considering where the UK can help further the international agenda on avoiding anti-microbial resistance, including through improved WASH.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon. Amanda Milling MP
Minister of State for Asia and the Middle East