

## Sample Letter

[Your name and address]

Matthew Rycroft, Permanent Secretary,  
Department for International Development,  
22 Whitehall, London SW1A 2EG.

Dear Matthew Rycroft

[Introduce yourself and tell the Permanent Secretary why you care about ending poverty globally and improving access to healthcare in the poorest communities.]

The world is closer than ever to ensuring that everyone is protected from diseases such as pneumonia, measles and polio. Since 2016, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has immunised 198 million children – 66 million in 2018 alone. But despite this, there is still a long way to go.

12 November is World Pneumonia Day. Shockingly, pneumonia still kills more than 900,000 children under the age of five each year – that’s more than those killed by AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined. 99% of these deaths occur in developing countries. Vaccines are crucial for preventing illnesses such as pneumonia.

In September, the UK signed a declaration at the UN to accelerate progress on achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Ensuring every child has access to the vaccines they need is an essential part of delivering this. We know that vaccines work. For example, since introducing the pneumonia vaccine in 2016, Kenya has seen a 92% reduction in cases in children under 5 years old. But children are still being missed out in Kenya and other countries where inequality remains.

As you know, Gavi has set out how it hopes to fund its work for the period 2021-2025. The work of Gavi has dramatically increased funding for immunising the world’s children and has prevented more than 13 million deaths. As the UK is the largest donor to Gavi, and will host next year’s pledging conference in June, I’m sure you are aware of the importance of continuing the UK’s strong financial support. I’d like to ask the UK Government to maintain the UK’s 25.5% share of Gavi funding (at current exchange rates, £1.64 billion) to maintain the UK’s leading role in supporting vaccinations for all.

By investing in Gavi, the UK can truly show global leadership in the fight against preventable diseases and help the international community step closer to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, ‘Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.’

Yours sincerely