

Edward Davey MP

Minister for Employment Relations,
Consumer and Postal Affairs

Mr Paul Chandler
Chief Executive
Traidcraft
Kingsway
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear N311 0NE

Our ref: CH/268137

Your ref:

5- November 2011

Dear Paul Chandler,

**FAIR DEAL FOR AFRICAN COTTON FARMERS – TRAIDCRAFT
CAMPAIGN**

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has received a large number of postcards calling on the Government to “support a fair deal for African cotton farmers and put an end to US cotton subsidies” including a commitment to:

- push for an agreed EU position that any WTO deal in December must address cotton subsidies;
- ask the US to announce their intention to comply with the WTO’s previous cotton ruling and use the Farm Bill to further cut subsidies in line with African countries proposals;
- build support amongst EU partners for the end of unfair European cotton subsidies.

Attached to this letter is the text of the Government’s official response to this campaign, and I should be grateful if you would arrange for this to be uploaded to your website.

*yours,
Edward Davey*

EDWARD DAVEY

1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
www.bis.gov.uk

**TRAIDCRAFT CAMPAIGN – A FAIR DEAL FOR COTTON
PRODUCERS**

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Thank you for your postcard voicing your concerns about the December Ministerial of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and the impact of the United States' subsidies on cotton producers in the world's poorest countries.

The UK Government shares your concern, and has consistently been at the forefront of those pressing for the reform of cotton subsidies as well as other trade issues important for the least developed countries.

Whilst it will be difficult to resolve all these in December, we are working hard to keep development at the core of the WTO's work programme and also to ensure that the WTO agrees a clear set of outcomes to be achieved during 2012.

In parallel, the UK government is seeking to address the issue of European cotton subsidies in the context of reforming the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. We will be working closely with our partners in Europe to achieve this.

I trust that this reply will be helpful and I am grateful to campaign supporters for raising this important issue.

*Yours,
Edward Davey*

EDWARD DAVEY
**Minister for Employment Relations,
Consumer and Postal Affairs**