



**International
Development
Committee**

Thursday, 23 January 2025

Leslie Maasdorp
Chief Executive Officer
British International Investment
By email

Subject: BII funding of private healthcare providers

Dear Leslie,

I am writing to you regarding a recent report by Bloomberg concerning World Bank IFC and other DFI funded for-profit health providers in the Global South.

The report identifies serious potential human rights violations in World Bank IFC and other DFI-funded private hospitals in several countries. This includes cases of patients being physically detained in hospitals because they were unable to pay for emergency treatment fees. Bloomberg describe the case of a nine-year-old boy who was allegedly detained after his family were unable to pay for his treatment for tetanus at the TMR International Hospital in Uganda. The hospital has received funding from BII.

More broadly, the report raises questions about the extent to which DFI funded private hospitals are affordable to those most in need, and whether they are advancing universal health coverage and poverty reduction. The cost of treatment in the case above was more than \$50,000—far above the average income in Uganda, where most people do not have health insurance.

Bloomberg's reporting follows written evidence received by the previous International Development Committee from Oxfam regarding aspects of BII's healthcare portfolio. This evidence also cited cases where for-profit hospitals funded by BII had allegedly detained patients unable to meet the cost of their treatment. I am concerned that this latest report forms part of a disturbing pattern.

I would be grateful for your response to the following questions:

- How recently has BII funded the TMR International Hospital, and does it plan to do so in future?
- What processes does BII have to protect patients when making investments in private healthcare providers?



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- What analysis has BII made of whether its funding for private hospitals is expanding healthcare access in low-income groups? Can you provide the Committee with this analysis?

I would be grateful for your response by 5 February. In line with our practice with Committee correspondence, we will put this letter and your response in the public domain. I am copying this letter to the Minister of State for International Development.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Champion MP
Chair of the International Development Committee

CC: Rt Hon Annaliese Dodds MP, Minister of State for Development, Foreign,
Commonwealth & Development Office