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Paul Barber  
Director  
Catholic Education Service  
39 Eccleston Square  
London SW1V 1BX

19<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Dear Mr Barber,

We know that misinformed publicity about Comic Relief has caused considerable confusion and distress in the past, particularly among Catholic schools wanting to support Red Nose Day and Sport Relief. So in 2000, we opened up a dialogue with the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales to help communicate the facts.

At that time, they issued a statement confirming that, after careful examination of our records, they were satisfied with Comic Relief's assurance that we do not fund and have never funded abortion services or the promotion of abortions. The Bishops' Conference and the Department of International Affairs confirmed that they were confident that Catholics may continue to support Comic Relief's fundraising initiatives in good faith. Our commitment remains the same.

Our international funding goes to all kinds of projects – providing education, rehabilitating child soldiers, peace-building, fair trade, supporting street children and a range of other work helping people in the world's poorest countries to turn their lives around.

This includes over £13.6m of grants to more than 50 projects managed by the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) for work across Africa, Asia and South America.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Aleks Leimanis".

Aleks Leimanis  
Schools & Youth Manager  
Comic Relief