

OFFICIAL



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

020 7008 1500
www.gov.uk/fco

From the Minister of State for Middle East and North Africa

Tom Tugendhat MP, Chair of the
Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

26 February 2020

Dear Tom,

**Government response to the Foreign Affairs Committee report: Finding a
diplomatic route: European responses to irregular migration**

I wanted to express my thanks for the work undertaken by the Foreign Affairs Committee under your chairmanship in the last Parliament on the inquiry into European responses to irregular migration. My officials and colleagues across Whitehall are considering the recommendations closely.

I also wish to apologise and to inform you that we are not expecting to send you our response to the report within the agreed deadline. As you know, we always aim to respond to Committee reports in good time and regret that we cannot do so on this occasion.

Many of the issues raised in the report relate to policy which falls within the cross-Government NSC Illegal Migration Strategy. This strategy is currently under review and as such it would be premature for us to respond to the report's recommendations before the refreshed strategy has been agreed.

We want to ensure that our response gives you and the Committee a complete and up to date view of HMG policy. As such, we propose that we send you the Government response in the spring.

Yours ever,

The Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP