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House of Commons
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Kevin Foster MP
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Dear Yvette,

Arrangements for British National Overseas citizens from Hong Kong at the UK border

I am writing to advise you I have made a Ministerial Authorisation under Schedule 3, Part 4, paragraph 17 (4) (a) of the Equality Act 2010 to allow Border Force to consider granting Hong Kong British National Overseas (BN(O)) citizens Leave Outside the Rules at the border. It will be open to Border Force Officers to grant Leave Outside the Rules where BN(O) citizens do not qualify for entry under the Immigration Rules due to their intention to remain in the UK.

This follows the imposition by the Chinese Government of a national security law on Hong Kong which restricts the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong in breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

The Government will introduce new immigration rules to allow BN(O) citizens the right to live and work in the UK for longer and give a path to full British citizenship. In the meantime we are introducing these arrangements at the border to ensure that BN(O) citizens who wish to come to the UK will be able to do so, subject to standard immigration checks.

This is in recognition of the historic commitment of the UK to the people of Hong Kong through the Joint Declaration, and specifically to those who elected to retain their ties to the UK through obtaining BN(O) status.

I am placing a copy of this letter and the Arrangement for this concession in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

Best wishes,

Kevin

**Kevin Foster MP
Minister for Future Borders and Immigration**