



Foreign Affairs Committee

From the Chair
Tom Tugendhat MP

Sajid Javid
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

By Email

11 May 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

On 5 May 2021 your predecessor Matt Hancock said in his virtual address to the 74th World Health Assembly “We believe Taiwan should be allowed to observe the WHA just as it has in the past.” This is of crucial importance because that was the first time a UK Minister had made this recommendation--and at the WHA itself.

You will recall that Taiwan was admitted as an observer to the WHA in 2009, but that this status was revoked in 2016 as a result of pressure from China.

The Minister’s stance on this issue received strong support in the House of Commons on 10 February 2022 in a debate on a motion calling on the Government to support Taiwan’s recognition in the international community, which was agreed without opposition.

I recently wrote to Secretary General Gebreyesus of the World Health Organization encouraging him to ensure that Taiwan resumes its Observer status at the WHA and to invite Taiwan to attend the 75th World Assembly Meeting on 22-28 May 2022 in that capacity.

I am now writing to you on behalf of the Committee to urge you to reiterate the Government’s clear request that Taiwan be readmitted as an Observer to the WHA.

TOM TUGENDHAT