



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street
London
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020 7210 4850

26 May 2022

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter. I am very sympathetic to the cause that you have raised, having built a close working relationship with my Taiwanese counterparts. This includes throughout last year, when I worked closely with the Taiwanese authorities on my Harvard project on learning lessons from the pandemic, given the critical role they have played.

More recently, on Monday 23rd May, I made the UK national address at the 75th World Health Assembly and reiterated the UK's call for Taiwan to resume its position as an official observer:

There is clearly no health basis to justify not including Taiwan as an observer to the WHA and to be given meaningful access to all relevant technical meetings not least because of the role they have played in sharing information with the rest of the world since the very beginning of Covid-19.

I also ensured, for the first time, that this position was reflected in the G7 Health Declaration negotiated in Berlin the previous week. Working closely with my Ministerial colleagues I was able to obtain strengthened language on Taiwan in the final text, which now reads –

To strengthen global cooperation on issues of concern to all we refer to the Foreign Ministers' Communiqué dated 14 May 2022 including Taiwan and believe it is vital to ensure inclusive processes in international organisations. The international community should be able to benefit from the experience of all partners.

Thank you for writing to raise this important issue with me.

Yours sincerely,

Yours ever,

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP



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You will recall that Taiwan was admitted as an observer to the WHA in 2009, but that this status was revoked in 2016 as a result of pressure from China.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