



Foreign Affairs Committee

From the Chair
Tom Tugendhat MP

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
LONDON SW1A 2AH

12 July 2022

Dear Foreign Secretary,

As part of the Committee's inquiry on the Integrated Review and Nigeria, we made a number of recommendations around engaging the Nigerian community in the UK. In the Government's response you outline how the High Commission engages with media outlets followed by the Nigerian diaspora in the UK and the efforts made to engage members of the diaspora in the creative arts and tech sectors.

However, the thrust of the Committee's recommendations was around the Government actively listening to the Nigerian community in the UK and providing platforms to maximise their opportunities of engagement. The examples provided in the response misinterpret the focus of our recommendation and do not adequately capture any steps the Government is taking to benefit from the views of the diaspora and utilise their enthusiasm.

Moreover, interlocutors organised by the High Commission in Nigeria emphasised opportunities for the Nigerian community in the UK to engage with peace building initiatives in Nigeria. We appreciate that these are very complex situations; but the dismissal of this suggestion would appear contrary to the views we heard from interlocutors valued by the Government and a missed opportunity to engage with the Nigerian diaspora in the UK.

Overall we found the Government's response sends an unhelpful signal to the Nigerian diaspora in the UK and fails to take proper account of an important contribution to the strengthening of relations with an extremely valuable partner.

TOM TUGENDHAT