



Foreign Affairs Committee

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From the Chair
Tom Tugendhat MP

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles St, Whitehall
London, SW1A 2AH

13 January 2021

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I was pleased to see the announcement on 4 December that the Government has accepted the recommendation of the Foreign Affairs Committee and appointed its first Technology Envoy to the United States. Given the growing influence of technology giants within the international system and the central importance of technology to society, this is a welcome development. As part of our ongoing inquiry into the FCDO's role in blocking foreign asset stripping in the UK, the Foreign Affairs Committee is currently exploring the implications of technology for national security and how the FCDO might contribute to the future screening of foreign investment in UK technology companies. As the Committee and the House consider the National Security and Investment Bill, we would welcome further information on how this new role will support this process, and more broadly on what your ambitions are for this post.

In this context, we would be grateful if you could provide answers to the following questions:

- What are the key priorities of the Tech Envoy, and how are these priorities to be delivered?
- The new post-holder will have a dual portfolio of HM Tech Envoy and Consul-General to the US. Will responsibilities and time be divided equally between these two roles?
 - Other countries such as Denmark have created full-time positions for their Tech Ambassadors. How will you ensure that the UK's Tech Envoy has sufficient time and capacity in a part-time role?
 - What is the rationale for creating this as a dual role; how are the Tech Envoy and Consul-General roles complementary?
 - How you have identified which companies with whom to prioritise the UK's diplomatic engagement?
- As well as promoting the UK as a partner of choice in trade, investment and research, what role will the Tech Envoy have in defending UK strategically sensitive technologies?
- How will the Tech Envoy inform the FCDO and the new Investment Security Unit about global technology and national security risks arising from certain foreign investments?
- Will there be Tech Envoys in Israel, China or elsewhere?

It would be helpful to have a response by 22 January 2021. I intend to place your response in the public domain.

Best wishes,

TOM TUGENDHAT MP