



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Catherine West MP
Minister for the Indo-Pacific

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

The Lord De Mauley
Chair, International Relations and Defence
Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

6 December 2024

Dear Lord De Mauley,

As you know, the government has committed to an Audit of the UK-China relationship.

A small team has been stood up in the FCDO to lead on this, bringing together views from colleagues across government as well as a range of stakeholders outside of HMG, including business, academia and the devolved administrations. Through this Audit, the government will improve our national capabilities to understand and respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by China.

The Audit will consider a comprehensive range of issues, including trade and investment, UK domestic security and economic resilience, Hong Kong, Taiwan, human rights, China's approach to and role in the international system, and climate and energy policy (further detail on the areas covered in the Audit can be found at Annex A below). We would welcome your Committee's perspectives on all China-related issues that you wish to raise.

I would therefore like to invite you and your Committee to provide written contributions to the China Audit process. Should you wish to, I would be grateful for written comments by 13 January. You may do so by writing back to me, or writing directly to the China Audit team based in the FCDO at China.Audit@fcdo.gov.uk.

I would also be very happy to meet with you to discuss the Audit process should that be of interest. My office can be contacted at the following email: psministerwestcalendar@fcdo.gov.uk.

Yours ever,

CATHERINE WEST MP
Minister for the Indo-Pacific

ANNEX A: Scope of the China Audit

The Government is undertaking an Audit to deliver a strategic approach to China, which in turn will drive a consistent and stable relationship.

The Audit will examine UK interests and the tensions between these; our objectives in the short and longer term; and the evidence underpinning our policy discussions and our approach to China. It will include looking at the core elements of our relationship with China which will have an impact on the delivery of the Government's five missions and three foundations.

The Audit will not attempt to determine policy outcomes but rather look at the framework and approach for how we address these issues.

Areas the Audit will look at include:

- Growth
- Supply Chains
- UK universities, research and development
- Technology and Artificial Intelligence
- Development
- Climate, Energy and Nature
- The international system
- Domestic security
- International security and defence
- Human rights
- Hong Kong
- Delivery and governance
- UK capability – across the Board, not just in government – on China
- Guidance to other UK actors who interact with the Chinese state and/or Chinese actors