



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Dame Meg,

During my appearance before the Committee on 8 April, I committed to write on the following areas:

Mission boards

You asked whether the Government would publish the minutes of the mission boards (question 21).

It is a long-established precedent that information about the discussions that have taken place in Cabinet and its committees - including mission boards - is not normally shared publicly.

Ministers will continue to engage with Parliament, including select committees, to discuss the basis for the Government's decision making and actions.

Child poverty

You and Debbie Abrahams asked when the child poverty strategy would be published (questions 26 and 27).

The Government is working at pace to deliver this vital piece of work and is focussed on making sure that it articulates the important changes required. The strategy will be published in due course.

Social care

You and Layla Moran enquired about the timing of Baroness Casey's social care commission (questions 35, 41 and 42).

As we discussed, the review is split over two phases setting out a vision for adult social care with recommended measures and a roadmap for delivery.

The first phase, reporting in 2026, will identify the critical issues facing adult social care and set out recommendations for effective reform and improvement in the medium term. It will recommend tangible, pragmatic solutions that can be implemented in a phased way to lay the foundations for a national care service. The recommendations of this phase will be aligned with the Government's spending plans which will be set out at the Spending Review.

The second phase, reporting by 2028, will make longer-term recommendations for the transformation of adult social care. It will build on the commission's first phase to look at the model of care needed to address our ageing population, how services should be organised to deliver this, and how to best create a fair and affordable adult social care system for all.

This approach enables the Government to act upon the first set of recommendations made next year, while not rushing wider considerations on the major reforms that the social care system needs.

Chinese citizens fighting in Ukraine

Tan Dhesi asked for further information about Chinese citizens captured fighting in Ukraine (question 56).

Russia's recruitment of foreign nationals to help fight its war in Ukraine is proof of Putin's growing desperation. It is well known that Russia uses a range of coercive techniques to recruit foreign nationals into its military. Together with our partners we will continue taking measures against actors that materially support Russia's war machine.

Since my appearance before the Committee, the Government has announced £350 million of further support for Ukraine's fighters on the front line. This package includes maintenance to vehicles and equipment already provided by the UK, as well as funding for radar systems, anti-tank mines and hundreds of thousands of drones.

Countering state-backed online disinformation

Chi Onwurah asked how the Government is countering state-backed online disinformation (question 64).

Several departments, including the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, the Home Office and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, work together to address risks to the UK from disinformation, responding flexibly to the continually evolving threat.

Activities include analysis and policy work to reduce the spread and impact of disinformation online. The Online Safety Act is a key tool in combatting online information threats, including where they pose a threat to UK democratic processes. It includes the Foreign Interference Offence as a priority offence, requiring companies to take proactive action to prevent users from encountering such material. Ofcom has strong enforcement powers where platforms fail to comply, including powers to issue fines of up to £18million or 10% of qualifying global annual turnover.

We do not share our total spend on information threats publicly because of the risks inherent in revealing the scale of our efforts to our adversaries.

Transnational repression

You asked about the Government's approach to transnational repression (question 71).

The Government takes its response to transnational repression (TNR) extremely seriously. Any attempt by any foreign state to intimidate, harass or harm individuals in the UK will not be tolerated. The UK has tools and system-wide safeguards in place to counter this threat robustly. In particular, the Foreign Interference Offence and State Threats aggravating factor - within the National Security Act 2023 - have been specifically designed to bear down on conduct amounting to foreign interference, including TNR.

The Defending Democracy Taskforce has conducted and concluded a review into the UK's response to TNR. The review set out to understand the scale and nature of TNR in the UK. It also considered the Government's response to the issue and make clear recommendations on how the approach might be strengthened. As chair of the Taskforce, the Security Minister oversaw this review. He will update Parliament on its key findings and recommendations shortly.

I am copying this letter to the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kw. Hillier', is written in a cursive style.