



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

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Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
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Our ref:
Your ref

28 July 2021

Dear Tom,

I was pleased to appear before the Foreign Affairs Committee on 13 July. During the evidence session I agreed to provide further information on a few points.

Q169. Taiwan

During the evidence session, I promised I would get back to you on your question regarding the British Government's position on whether Taiwan should or should not attend WHO meetings.

The Government has been consistently clear that it supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations where statehood is not a prerequisite and where Taiwan can make a valuable contribution. The UK believes the World Health Assembly (WHA) and related technical meetings of the WHO meet these criteria. This is reflected in our public language including the 5 May G7 Foreign and Development Minister's Communique and the UK's national statement at May's WHA, which referred to Taiwan by name.

Q206. Vaccine misinformation

Neil Coyle MP asked whether the UK government had taken any action or raised any concerns with China or Russian authorities about vaccine misinformation.

In our international policy engagement, we routinely make clear our view that it is in no country's interest to undermine public confidence in the vaccines upon which we all rely to bring the pandemic to an end. We have raised this issue in bilateral discussions where we have had particular concerns, including with the Russian Government. We have not raised this with the Chinese authorities.


The UK and our G7 partners have shown leadership on this issue, agreeing on the need to protect our democracies against disinformation as we work together to tackle the shared threat of COVID-19. We are building international cooperation through key groups such as a G7 Rapid Response Mechanism that enables us to counter disinformation and efforts to undermine our shared values and democratic institutions.

The UK also convened a G7 Global Vaccine Confidence Summit on 2 June 2021. This gathered the world's most influential voices to galvanise action around the common goal of establishing trust and confidence in stringently regulated vaccines. The G7 Global Vaccine Confidence Campaign now aims to share best practice principles, establish partnerships with academic institutions to drive research, and create an online platform for sharing data, insights and effective strategies in order to increase vaccine confidence worldwide. The UK Government and Google Cloud will form a partnership with some of the world's leading technology companies, to develop new digital solutions for combatting misinformation on vaccines.

Q.224 - 226. Vaccine criminality

Stewart Malcolm McDonald MP asked whether the Government monitors vaccine criminality, cross-border criminality, and how the Government would respond. He also asked whether the Government monitors situations such as *The Moscow Times* story investigating the Sputnik V vaccine, and how the Government responds to situations like these.

The UK monitors issues relating to COVID-19 vaccines, including through regular engagement by the FCDO diplomatic network, monitoring of open source reporting by the FCDO Open Source Unit, and receipt of reporting from Interpol. Where there is evidence of criminality relevant to the UK or UK interests, including where allegations of vaccine related criminality affecting foreign countries that involve UK entities are identified, these will be considered by the relevant authority.

Yours ever


Wendy Morton MP
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