



**Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office**

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth
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Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

2nd December 2021

Dear Tom,

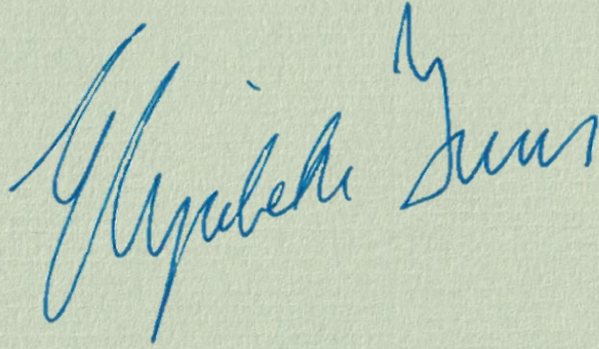
Thank you for your letter of 4 November in reference to the Government's support for election observation activities.

Since taking on the role as Foreign Secretary, I have made clear that I want the UK to build a network of liberty that will put the UK at the heart of a network of economic, diplomatic and security partnerships. Promoting democratic values is a key part of this, and election observation allows us to support democracies and strengthen democratic electoral processes around the globe. This includes our continued commitment to support the OSCE and the work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) which organises missions to observe elections in the OSCE region. The FCDO recently appointed a single supplier for ODIHR missions after a competitive tender exercise.

A single supplier model was chosen to streamline the process and provide consistency of approach across all ODIHR election observation missions. Many other OSCE states have one supplier for ODIHR election observation missions. There were three bidders in this tender exercise and they were assessed on the same technical and commercial criteria.

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) achieved the highest score overall. No challenges were received by any of the unsuccessful bidders against this decision. I am pleased to announce a three year agreement with WFD has been signed. To ensure quality of service the agreement includes robust monitoring and reporting requirements, including on the requirement for a refreshed and diverse representation of election observers. Working with our partners, including ODIHR, we will also keep under review the terms and conditions for election observers taking part in ODIHR missions.

I would like to thank the Foreign Affairs Committee for their interest in the Government's support for election observation activities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Truss', is positioned at the top of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Elizabeth' written in a larger, more prominent script than the surname 'Truss'.

RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP
FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY



Foreign Affairs Committee

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From the Chair
Tom Tugendhat MP

Rt Hon Liz Truss MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London
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4 November 2021

Dear Foreign Secretary

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to follow up on recommendations we made in our report on multinational organisations, *In the room: the UK's role in multilateral diplomacy*, and the Government's response, published in September 2021, with particular reference to the Government's support for election monitoring activities. In the report we made a number of recommendations for improvements to the FCDO's approach to election monitoring.

We understand that a sole supplier of election monitoring has been appointed for those election monitoring missions the Government supports. I would be grateful if you could provide clarification on the following questions:

- What was the process undertaken to select the supplier and the rationale for the final decision?
- Please could you clarify why a single supplier model was considered the most effective system for delivering election monitoring, as opposed to a competitive selection process for each mission?
- What steps is the FCDO taking, if any, to promote a diverse range of potential suppliers in future bids?
- How does the FCDO plan to refresh the pool of election observers and ensure that there is improved remuneration and working conditions for observers going forward?
- What metrics will be used for measuring quality of service and value for money of the new supplier?

I would be grateful for a response by 29 November. I intend to place your response in the public domain.

TOM TUGENDHAT