



# Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Tom Tugendhat MP  
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Sir Philip Barton KCMG OBE  
Permanent Under-Secretary of State  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

Tel: 020 7008 2150  
Email: pus.action@fcdof.gov.uk

27 January 2022

Dear Tom,

## **FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: AFGHANISTAN**

Please refer to my letter of 17 January in reply to yours of 15 December with various questions following the 7 December oral evidence session on UK policy towards Afghanistan.

With reference to my answers to questions 33-35 and having now seen the published version of the email the Committee asked Nigel Casey about at the end of the evidence session on 25 January, I am writing to apologise for the inadvertently inaccurate answers given to these questions.

On the day the email was sent, Nigel was almost entirely focused, in his role as Gold in our crisis response, on the terrorist threat to the evacuation, which led to our changing our Travel Advice that evening to warn British nationals to move away from the airport. As Nigel said to the Committee on 25 January, he has no recollection of having seen emails in which staff attributed this decision to the Prime Minister. Nor do I.

I would be grateful if you would pass on my and Nigel's apologies to your colleagues on the Committee for this mistake.

*Yours sincerely  
Philip Barton*

**Philip Barton**