

Written evidence submitted by Lord David Arthur Russell Lord Howell of Guildford (IRR0002)

SUMMARY

1. The earlier Integrated Review of UK foreign policy was a valuable and useful document. But it suffered from four major disadvantages.
2. The first was that it was completed before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which many predicted would never occur, and subsequent major global disruption of new and unanticipated kinds .
3. The second was that despite recognising the need for the UK to seek ‘new allies’ it continued to give too much weight to American ‘leadership’ of the West and a continuation of outdated versions of the special relationship
4. The third was that the Review preceded the last ten months of greatly heightened Chinese international pressures, including greatly increased Chinese engagement in the developing world, especially in smaller nations and islands, and of course in Taiwan.
5. The fourth was that it underestimated the significance of new networks , and new kinds of networks, in a more fluid international landscape, especially in the rise of Asia. This meant that voluntary and treaty-free associations like the Commonwealth, and their potential for furthering British soft power , influence, trade and now security, were seriously undervalued.

PERSON SUBMITTING

Lord Howell a former Secretary of State for Energy and for Transport 1979-83

Former Minister of State for the Commonwealth and International Energy Security 2010-2012

Former chair of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee 1987-97

Former chair (and founder) of the Lords International Relations Committee 2016-19

Chair of the 1995 FAC Review and Report of the Future of the Commonwealth

Chair of the 2013 Lords Cttee Report ‘Persuasion and Power in the Modern World’.

Chair of the 2018 Lords Cttee Report on 'British Foreign Policy in a Shifting World Order'.

Member of the so-called 'Eminent Persons Group' on Commonwealth Governance ,2017.

Author of Numerous books, pamphlet and lectures on Britain and international policy.

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