During the Statement on Iran you said, “The Daily Mail reports that the Prime Minister, on meeting the Iranian President, has now invited him to London. Can the Minister fill us in on the purpose of this visit”?

In extending the invitation of a visit to President Rouhani, the Prime Minister is ensuring we maintain dialogue with Iran at senior levels within the Iranian government. It is important that we engage with Iran in order to play our part in wider diplomatic efforts towards de-escalation and to encourage Iran to come back into compliance with the JCPoA. Dialogue also gives us the opportunity to discuss a range of issues including our consular cases and human rights. We do not agree on everything, but it is right that Britain and Iran should maintain dialogue. This is a vital tool for protecting UK national security.

I hope you find this letter helpful. I will also place a copy of this letter in the House library.

Baroness Northover
House of Lords