During the Statement on Iran on Wednesday 25 September, you said “I am glad to hear about the invitation to President Rouhani to come to Britain, but does my noble friend agree that the best thing we can do is not only to make good relations with the Government but, perhaps through the BBC World Service, explain to the Iranian people that they are being exploited and taken for a ride by the deep state, and denied the prosperity and respect that their great heritage earns them”? I am sorry that I was unable to respond to you at the time but I promised to write to you.

The BBC World Service provides high quality, impartial and independent news and analysis to some of the most remote places in the world, including where free speech is limited, providing a link to the UK for individuals and societies who would otherwise not have this opportunity. The BBC is editorially and operationally independent of government.

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

Lord Marlesford
House of Lords