



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development

Lord Bowness
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

14 July 2020

Dear Lord Bowness,

During a House of Lords Oral Question on the UK Government's relationship with the Government of China on 17 June, you raised the issue of an international contact group on Hong Kong. I would like to set out the UK approach.

As the Foreign Secretary stated in Parliament on 2 June, we want to build up a groundswell of those who share our commitment to international law. We believe that this approach, of seeking to get as many countries as possible to speak out, is the most effective means of urging China to live up to its obligations and responsibilities to Hong Kong, as a leading member of the international community.

In this regard, the Government is engaging widely with international partners and institutions to explain our position and encourage them to take action. This approach resulted in an unprecedented joint statement on Hong Kong and Xinjiang at the UN Human Rights Council on 30 June, with the support of 27 other countries. This demonstrates the level of international concern on Hong Kong, and global UK diplomatic leadership. We will continue to work with partners wherever possible in this regard.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON
Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth
Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict