



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

**The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park**  
Minister of State



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Dear Lord Foulkes,

On Monday 15 November you expressed your concern over the case of Nazanin Zaghari Radcliffe who has been unfairly detained in Iran. I share in the very strong feeling of the house about Nazanin's ordeal. As I said on Monday, this government is absolutely committed to bringing her home and we lobby at the most senior levels at every opportunity on her case alongside our other dual nationals, Anoosheh Ashoori and Morad Tahbaz who are also being unfairly detained.

A number of members raised the issue of the IMS debt in connection with British dual nationals held in Iran. I was clear earlier this week that we will never accept British dual nationals being used as diplomatic leverage, and I do firmly believe it is unhelpful to make a connection between wider bilateral and/or multilateral issues and those unfairly detained in Iran. However I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise, as Minister Cleverly did in his Westminster Hall Debate on 16 November, that the UK does absolutely recognise that we have a duty to legally repay this debt, and we continue to explore options to resolve this long standing case. However, we cannot comment further as our discussions with Iran are ongoing.

I would like to assure you that the Foreign Secretary, Minister Cleverly and FCDO officials are working intensively to secure the release of our dual British nationals and reunite them with their families.

A copy has also been sent to all members who contributed during Monday's Private Notice Question.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House Library.

With best wishes,

**THE RT HON THE LORD GOLDSMITH OF RICHMOND PARK**