



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

*Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing &
Communities*
Minister for Intergovernmental Relations
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Alicia Kearns MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

By email

3 July 2023

Dear Alicia,

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill

Thank you for your contribution to today's debate on the Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill, which I am pleased has received the approval of the House to proceed to its committee stage. You raised a number of specific points to which I will respond in due course.

During my speech, you asked a specific question relating to advice from diplomatic posts relating to our commitments under UN Security Resolutions, and I wished to clarify the response I gave you in the Chamber.

The UK believes very strongly in the importance of complying with international obligations under the UN charter and legal compliance with Security Council resolutions. The final legal advice my officials have received from FCDO is that the Bill is compliant with international law and our obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 2334. I am sure you will agree that addresses the substance of your question.

Of course, there were deliberations and views expressed to inform such matters, as there is in the preparation of all legislation. Such deliberations are rightly for the consideration of the Government only, and are strictly privileged and confidential. As section 2.3 of the Ministerial Code makes clear, the internal process through which a decision has been made should not be disclosed, neither should advice provided by civil servants as part of that internal process be disclosed. In line with the longstanding principle of collective agreement, the Government's position was agreed by the FCDO, as indeed it was by all government departments.

I am copying this letter to the Speaker of the House of Commons, William Wragg MP, and I will place a copy of this letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

With every good wish,

RT HON MICHAEL GOVE MP

Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities
Minister for Intergovernmental Relations