



Ministry
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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THE EARL OF MINTO
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

MSU/4/8/1/1/is

20th March 2024


Dear Dennis,

During the AUKUS debate on Thursday 29th February, you raised the issue of partners' collective position towards Taiwan.

AUKUS is a defence and security partnership that reinforces the existing deep bonds between the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States. It does not change any of the trilateral partners' existing policy positions or bilateral multilateral defence and security arrangements. AUKUS is about supporting our allies and promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific region, while protecting UK citizens and supporting a rules-based international system; we remain steadfast in our commitment to both.

The UK has a clear interest in peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, though we consider the issue to be one which should be settled peacefully by the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait through constructive dialogue, without the threat or use of force or coercion. We do not support any unilateral attempts to change the status quo which includes increased Chinese assertiveness towards Taiwan.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely


THE EARL OF MINTO

The Lord Rogan
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW