

THE LORD COAKER
MINISTER FOR THE HOUSE OF LORDS

4.8.1.1.

5 August 2024

Dear Lord Alton,

I am writing to respond to your question at the recent Foreign Affairs and Defence debate regarding the removal of Hikvision cameras in Government buildings, and the security risks posed by Chinese electric vehicles.

Firstly, I am pleased to report that work on the removal of specific Chinese surveillance cameras (Hikvision, and others) from Government sensitive sites is progressing well. The vast majority of sensitive sites did not deploy such equipment and, of the small proportion that did, over 50% of sites have now had that equipment replaced. Work is pressing ahead to remove the remaining devices with approximately 70% of sites expected to have their surveillance equipment removed by the autumn. The Cabinet Office will continue to monitor progress to ensure all Government departments are on track for the complete removal of this type of surveillance equipment from our sensitive sites by April 2025.

Turning to your question on Chinese electric vehicles, you may be interested to note that the potential national security risks apply to specific on-board systems and therefore these risks are not exclusive to Chinese-made vehicles, or indeed only electric vehicles. The Government takes the security risks of all types of connected vehicles extremely seriously and we are working closely with the National Technical Authorities, and others, to understand and respond to cyber vulnerabilities presented by these technologies. For example, the Department for Transport co-chairs the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) group that developed two new international regulations related to connected and automated vehicles – one on cybersecurity and one on software updates. The cybersecurity regulation sets out requirements to mitigate potential threats in vehicle construction, to monitor emerging threats and to respond to cyber-attacks.

The Lord Alton of Liverpool KCSG KCMCO
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The Government takes national security extremely seriously and we will continue to work with colleagues, particularly the National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), on developments in technology and the security risks they may pose.

I am placing this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vernon Coaker". The script is cursive and fluid.

THE LORD COAKER