



Rt Hon James Cleverly MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

17 January 2023

Dear James,

**RE: FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRIORITIES**

I trust you are well. As you will be aware, last month I took up the position of SNP Foreign Affairs Spokesperson and I am looking forward to getting to grips with the policy areas therein.

While I may be new to the brief, the priorities of the SNP remain clear, and I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you in this regard.

We believe that safeguarding human rights globally and advancing climate justice should be at the heart of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's agenda now and always. I am looking to highlight these specific policy areas as a priority with you.

**Human Rights**

- It is estimated that at least fifty thousand investigations into crimes committed in the Russia/Ukraine war are ongoing. Yet, there is no appropriate mechanism by which Russian leaders can be held to account for their role in such horrors. **I am, therefore, asking you to confirm that the UK Government will join the international community in backing the establishment of a special tribunal to investigate Russian aggression and war crimes in Ukraine.** As you will be aware, France, the Netherlands and the EU Commission have already backed such a tribunal. Achieving justice for Ukraine at an international level is vital if we are to facilitate adequate reparations for those who have lost and continue to lose so much to the scourge of war.
- Forced displacement, arbitrary detention and illegal settlement expansion continue to occur in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, with forced evictions in Masafer Yatta having already taken place in January 2023 in direct violation of the Geneva Convention. Regarding the quotidian violations of Palestinian human rights, the UK Government has explicitly acknowledged that a culture of impunity exists in the OPTs but repeatedly fails to take concrete steps to hold the Israeli Government accountable for its actions. **To that end, I seek urgent assurances that the UK Government will refer these latest forced evictions to the International Criminal Court investigation into war crimes in the OPTs and fully support the investigation.**

## Climate Justice

- Scotland was the first country in the world to introduce a climate justice fund and has played a key role in putting ‘loss and damage funding’ on the agenda at COP27 last year. Our £7m commitment to address climate-related loss and damage in Global South countries made Scotland the first Government in the Global North to announce this. **In the face of the escalating climate and biodiversity crises, we ask again, will the UK Government proportionally match the commitment made to ‘loss and damage’ by the Scottish Government.**
- At the end of 2022, the UK Government signed off on a decision to open the first coal mine in the UK for 30 years. In doing so, it destroyed any credibility it had in tackling climate change and advancing renewables diplomacy efforts. **To ensure that language at international negotiations is consistent with actions at home, we implore the UK Government to reverse this regressive decision.**

I look forward to hearing back from you and working constructively with you on the issues that divide us. I hope we can also find common ground on the issues where there is consensus.

Kind Regards,



**Drew Hendry MP**

Member of Parliament for  
Inverness, Nairn,  
Badenoch & Strathspey

Scottish National Party  
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Working to deliver the best outcomes for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey communities.

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