



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

October 2019

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the situation in Hong Kong.

The UK takes extremely seriously its longstanding duty to uphold the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. It is a legally binding treaty, registered with the UN and remains in force until 2047. It is important that the basic freedoms enshrined in the Sino-British Joint Declaration are maintained. All rights and principles in that agreement must be respected, not just by Hong Kong but by the Chinese authorities as well.

The UK Government believes it is imperative that Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and the rights and freedoms of the Hong Kong people, are fully respected in line with the Joint Declaration and the Hong Kong Basic Law.

The Foreign Secretary raised Hong Kong and the importance of the Joint Declaration, with Chinese State Councillor Wang Yi on the 31st July. He also spoke to Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam on the 9th August, when he noted the UK's support for Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and its commitment to 'One Country, Two Systems'. The Prime Minister also discussed developments in Hong Kong with other leaders at the recent G7 Summit.

I am seriously concerned about the situation in Hong Kong. Of course the UK Government is right to condemn any violence, but it is absolutely crucial to support the right to peaceful and lawful protests on Hong Kong. The route to resolution through the current situation is via meaningful political dialogue, taken forward under the high degree of autonomy that Hong Kong has under the 'One Country, Two Systems' model.

The UK will continue to monitor closely events in Hong Kong, speaking publicly on issues of concern.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris".

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**

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