

Debate Pack

CDP-0031 (2022)

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7 February 2022

UK-Taiwan friendship and cooperation

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1 Summary

A debate on UK-Taiwan friendship and cooperation is scheduled for Thursday 10 February 2022 in the House of Commons Chamber.

2 Background

Taiwan is an island in the South China Sea, around 100 miles off the coast of China on which nearly 24 million people live. The Communist Party-controlled People's Republic of China (PRC) considers Taiwan as a breakaway province that must return to the mainland's control.

According to [Taiwan's constitution](#) its official name is the Republic of China (ROC). This is a remnant of a political entity formed on the Chinese mainland more than 100 years ago. The ROC does not officially recognise the PRC, and its constitution still asserts sovereignty over mainland China.

UK policy on recognition of Taiwan

The UK, [like most other countries](#), does not recognise Taiwan, nor maintain formal diplomatic relations with the island. The [UK Government says](#) the dispute between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China (PRC) should be resolved "through dialogue, in line with the views of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait". It has no plans to recognise Taiwan as a state. The UK does support Taiwan's participation in international organisations as an observer.

The UK was the first Western power to recognise the PRC, doing so in January 1950, and sending a Chargé d'affaires to Beijing. The UK broke off its recognition of the ROC at the same time. The PRC did not reciprocate diplomatic relations with the UK, demanding the UK support its bid to take up the UN seat occupied by the ROC at that time.

The UK and the PRC finally exchanged ambassadors in 1972, and the UK closed down its consulate in Taiwan that same year. As part of establishing formal diplomatic relations, the UK and the PRC [signed an agreement](#) (pdf) that "acknowledged the position of the government of the PRC that Taiwan was a province of China and recognised the PRC Government as the sole legal government of China".

This UK's policy was most recently set out in a House of Lords debate on 14 July 2020, with Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon [saying on behalf of the Government](#):

The United Kingdom's long-standing policy on Taiwan has not changed. We have no diplomatic relations with Taiwan, but a strong unofficial relationship

based on dynamic commercial, educational and cultural ties. We regularly lobby in favour of Taiwan's participation in international organisations where statehood is not a prerequisite, and we make clear our concerns about any activity that risks destabilising the cross-strait status quo. We have no plans to recognise Taiwan as a state.

The UK's diplomatic presence on the island is maintained through an outpost called the "British Office Taipei". According to the [Office's UK Government website](#), it "promotes trade, investment, innovation, culture, education and other links between the UK and Taiwan", and "provide[s] practical assistance to British nationals in Taiwan".

Recent trade talks

The subject on which the UK and Taiwan most regularly engage is trade, and the two sides hold annual rounds of trade talks. In October 2021 UK Trade Policy Minister Penny Mordaunt co-hosted the [24th UK-Taiwan trade talks](#), with Taiwan's Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs, Chen Chern-Chyi. Discussions in the talks covered bilateral collaboration on renewable energy, with the UK committing to share expertise on floating offshore wind and multi-use port development as well as skills and workforce planning for the renewable energy sector.

The two sides also discussed the UK's role in advancing Taiwan's English language education, teaching and assessment. At the same time as the trade talks a [Memorandum of Understanding was signed](#) between the British Council and the Ministry of Education to cultivate language proficiency and support Taiwan's ambition to become a bilingual society in Mandarin Chinese and English by 2030.

In 2020, the [UK exported](#) £2.4 billion of goods and services to Taiwan and imported £3.6 billion. Taiwan was the UK's 39th largest export market, accounting for 0.4% of UK exports of goods and services and the 30th largest source of imports, accounting for 0.7% of the UK's imported goods and services.

Defence and security

There is now a greater focus on the UK's foreign and defence policy towards Taiwan and the surrounding region. This is in part because of the recent [Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy](#), that said the UK would "tilt to the Indo-Pacific" region. The review also described China as a "systemic competitor".

The UK has no defence ties with Taiwan. Asked over the years if the UK would consider lending military support to Taiwan, Governments [have repeated the position that the UK's policy is for a peaceful resolution between China and Taiwan](#).

The UK has increased its naval exercises in the South China Sea over the last few years. HMS Albion conducted a [US style freedom of navigation operation](#) by the Paracel islands in August 2018, and in early 2019 the Royal Navy [conducted two joint military exercises with the US Navy](#) in the South China Sea.

At the end of September 2021, the UK sent a warship, HMS Richmond, through the Taiwan strait for the first time since 2008 (HMS Enterprise, a survey vessel, navigated the strait in 2019). HMS Richmond, a frigate then [deployed with the Royal Navy's aircraft carrier strike group](#), sailed through the strait on a trip from Japan to Vietnam.

The Chinese military followed the vessel and were reported to have warned it away. The People's Liberation Army also [condemned the move saying it was behaviour that "harboured evil intentions"](#).

Further information

For further information on Taiwan's international relations, its historical relationship with mainland China, and the UK's policy towards the region see the follow Commons Library publications:

- [Taiwan: Country profile and international relations](#), 23 June 2021, (Commons Library briefing paper).
- [Taiwan: Relations with the United States](#), 24 June 2021, (Commons Library briefing paper).
- [Integrated Review 2021: The Defence tilt to the Indo-Pacific](#), 11 October 2021, (Commons Library briefing paper).
- [The AUKUS agreement](#), 11 October 2021, (Commons Library briefing paper).
- [Impact on Anglo-Chinese relations following the AUKUS pact](#), 15 October 2021, (Commons Library debate pack).

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Press articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

[UK, US voice support for Taiwan at the WHO](#)

Taipei Times
30 January 2022

[British MPs risk wrath of China with planned trip to Taiwan](#)

Daily Telegraph
Nicola Smith
28 January 2022

[Chinese air force incursion of Taiwan not conducive to peace, UK PM says](#)

Reuters
26 January 2022

[Taiwan expresses gratitude to UK, Australia for reaffirming stance on Strait peace](#)

Asian News International
23 January 2022

[Taiwan's National Central Library signs MOU with The British Library](#)

Taiwan News
Stephanie Chiang
14 January 2022

[China warns UK's Truss not to imperil ties over Taiwan spat](#)

Politico
Stuart Lau
14 October 2021

[China accuses British navy of 'evil intentions' as UK warship sails through Taiwan Strait](#)

Sky News
Tom Cheshire
28 September 2021

UK sends warship through Taiwan strait for first time in more than a decade

The Guardian

28 September 2021

Theresa May questions whether Aukus pact could lead to war over Taiwan

The Guardian

Dan Sabbagh

16 September 2021

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Press releases

[UK and Taiwan sign MOU on exchange of driving licences](#)

British Office Taipei

4 January 2022

The UK and Taiwan have entered into an arrangement that will enable the exchange of driving licences issued by the respective Licensing Authorities. Holders of a valid UK driving licence who are currently resident in Taiwan will be able to exchange their licence for a Taiwan one, and vice versa for holders of Taiwan driving licences in the UK. The arrangement will come into effect from 1 January 2022, when applications will open.

This arrangement is underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding signed between John Dennis, Representative at the British Office and Kelly W. Hsieh, Representative of the Taipei Representative Office in the UK via an online signing ceremony on 23 December, witnessed in Taipei by Harry Ho-jen Tseng, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

John Dennis, Representative at the British Office Taipei said:

I am extremely pleased and grateful to welcome this new arrangement on behalf of the British community in Taiwan. It comes after much anticipation and a lot of hard work on both sides. People in both the UK and Taiwan will be able to enjoy the benefits of this new arrangement from 2022. It offers major new flexibilities, particularly to long-term UK residents of Taiwan, and it symbolises the powerful and deepening cooperation between the UK and Taiwan in so many areas. We are delighted to be able to announce it today.

Under the arrangement, an exchanged Taiwan driving licence will last for 6 years from the date of issue. Detailed guidance on how holders of UK Driving Licences will be able to apply to exchange them for Taiwan Driving Licences can be found at GOV.UK page.

[The UK Pavilion at Energy Taiwan 2021 showcases British offshore wind sector expertise in Taiwan](#)

British Office Taipei

2 December 2021

The British Office Taipei will showcase the UK's offshore wind expertise with visionary British companies at the 'UK Pavilion at Energy Taiwan' in Taipei Nangang Exhibition Centre Hall II on 8-10 December.

This is the first time that the UK will host a themed pavilion at the Energy Taiwan exhibition, demonstrating the commitment by UK offshore wind supply

chain companies to support Taiwan's ambitions for offshore wind and renewable energy.

The UK is the world leader in offshore wind, with more installed capacity than any other country. The UK has almost twenty years of renewable energy engagement with Taiwan, especially on offshore wind. Since 2004, the British Office Taipei has been sharing the UK's experience in energy policy, industrial development and R&D with Taiwan.

Taiwan is now the UK's largest offshore wind market in Asia Pacific region with over 30 UK offshore wind companies having opened offices in Taiwan; many of these offices serving as the regional Asia-Pacific hub. The UK's credit agency, UK Export Finance, has provided more than five hundred million pounds in credit guarantees to three offshore wind farms in Taiwan.

Eight UK companies with business operation in Taiwan will also be exhibiting at the UK Pavilion to demonstrate UK supply chain expertise on offshore windfarm planning & construction, engineering consultancy services, crew transfer vessels, O&M services, blade services, floating wind technology, and temporary power & temperature solutions for offshore wind farms.

John Dennis, Representative of the British Office Taipei will be opening the UK pavilion with eight leading British supply chain businesses and welcome the industry practitioners to visit the Pavilion.

[The UK and Taiwan advance collaboration in hydrogen and fuel cell technology](#)

British Office Taipei

22 October 2021

Co-hosted by the British Office in Taipei and the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research, the inaugural UK-Taiwan Hydrogen Forum took place virtually on 21 October, with supports by Taiwan Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Partnership and Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association. The Forum brought together more than 100 UK and Taiwanese hydrogen and fuel cell companies with 11 companies presenting at the Forum to explore possible areas for collaboration.

To mark the occasion, the UK and Taiwan's respective hydrogen trade associations, the Taiwan Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Partnership and Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), committing to improving bilateral engagement, supporting skills development, education and outreach activities, and coordinating industry-related information and events. This MoU signing was witnessed by John Dennis, Representative of British Office Taipei, Lord Faulkner, UK Trade Envoy

to Taiwan and YU Cheng-Wei, Director General of Bureau of Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs.

In August 2021, the UK Government published a hydrogen strategy that sets out the approach to developing a thriving low carbon hydrogen sector in the UK to meet its ambition for 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030. The strategy also includes a chapter on how the UK is working with other leading hydrogen nations to drive global leadership on the development of low carbon hydrogen to support the world's transition to net zero.

John Dennis, Representative of British Office Taipei said:

This is just the right time for the UK and Taiwan to come together and explore closer collaboration on this fuel of the future. UK-Taiwan collaboration is growing fast in low carbon energy development, especially offshore wind. And Taiwan's domestic fuel cell industry which is already a vital part of global hydrogen supply chains is increasingly strong and innovative.

Emerging UK-Taiwan collaboration opportunities include the deployment of hydrogen in medium-to-long distance public road transportation, the production of green hydrogen from offshore wind, and partnering on project opportunities in third markets where the UK and Taiwan share a common interest.

Lord Faulkner of Worcester, UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Taiwan said:

Low carbon hydrogen has a critical role to play in our collective transition to net zero, with the potential to overcome some of the trickiest decarbonisation challenges facing our economy. Today, low carbon hydrogen technologies remain at a relatively early stage of deployment. This makes international collaboration especially important, to help mitigate early-stage development risks and create larger shared markets for the deployment of low carbon hydrogen. We look forward to working with Taiwan on these important efforts.

YU Cheng-Wei, Director-General of Bureau of Energy, MOEA also commented:

Moving from the "energy transition" to the "net-zero transition" by 2050, Taiwan has included hydrogen energy in our decarbonisation plans to effectively reduce carbon emissions in the energy and industrial sectors. In addition, MOEA has established a "Hydrogen Energy Promotion Group" to expand the promotion of the application and development of hydrogen energy. We will continue to pay attention to the global development trend of hydrogen energy and actively promote the decarbonisation of energy and industry.

Nigel Holmes, CEO, Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association as said:

With just 10 days to go until the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, the focus is now clearly on the urgent need to make the transition to zero-emission energy solutions. This MoU between the Taiwan Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Partnership and the Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association will help us to share

experience from the deployment of zero emission hydrogen fuel cell buses in Aberdeen, the production and local use of hydrogen in Orkney, and the H100 Fife demonstration of hydrogen from offshore wind for heating and cooking, replacing carbon intensive fossil fuels.

Dr. Tso Chunto, Vice President of Taiwan Institute of Economic Research & Convener of Taiwan Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Partnership also commented:

To reach net-zero emissions by 2050, hydrogen would be one of the most crucial projects in the near future. As for Taiwan, we have completed hydrogen and fuel cell technology supply chains, which international collaborations could be greatly promoted. Through today's UK- Taiwan Hydrogen Forum, it could bring endless possibilities for more mutual collaborations. We believed that Taiwan's hydrogen industry is well-prepared for the better future.

UK Hydrogen Strategy Executive Summary

Hydrogen is one of a handful of new, low carbon solutions that will be critical for the UK's transition to net zero. As part of a deeply decarbonised, deeply renewable energy system, low carbon hydrogen could be a versatile replacement for high-carbon fuels used today – helping to bring down emissions in vital UK industrial sectors and providing flexible energy for power, heat and transport. The UK's vision, resources and know-how are ideally suited to rapidly developing a thriving hydrogen economy. Our world-class innovation and expertise offer opportunities for UK companies in growing domestic and global markets. The UK Hydrogen Strategy sets out how we will drive progress in the 2020s, to deliver our 5GW production ambition by 2030 and position hydrogen to help meet our Sixth Carbon Budget and net zero commitments. To see [full strategy] (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-hydrogen-strategy>)

List of the 11 UK and Taiwanese companies that presented at the inaugural UK-Taiwan Hydrogen Forum:

- UK – Ceres Power, developer of solid oxide fuel cell technology
- UK – Howden, the world's leading provider of air and gas handling solutions
- UK – Petrofac, integrated international energy services company
- UK – Arcola Energy, specialist developer of hydrogen transportation infrastructure
- UK – Alexander Dennis, manufacturer of next generation hydrogen buses
- Taiwan – Linde LienHwa Group, Taiwan's largest industrial gas supplier
- Taiwan – YC Synergy, fuel cell and electric drive system provider
- Taiwan – Asia Hydrogen Energy, developer of solid oxide fuel cell technology
- Taiwan – M-Field Energy, industrial and residential fuel cell system provider
- Taiwan – hiPower Green Technology, hydrogen R&D and services company

- Taiwan – TÜV Rheinland, the world's leading provider of technical testing services

UK-Taiwan trade talks focus on green future

Department for International Trade

20 October 2021

The 24th annual UK-Taiwan Trade Talks progressed market access ambitions in a range of sectors including energy and offshore wind power, financial services, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and whisky on 18 October 2021.

The virtual talks were held as Taiwan sustained impressive economic growth this year following resolute handling of Covid-19. The UK-Taiwan trading relationship is set to grow, as highlighted by a new survey showing British business confidence in Taiwan is stronger than ever.

The UK is working closely with all partners, including Taiwan, to inspire climate action. Bilateral collaboration has been stepped up on renewable energy, propelling offshore wind power for generations to come. The UK committed to sharing expertise on floating offshore wind and multi-use port development as well as skills and workforce planning for the renewable energy sector.

The UK was the first major economy to pass legislation for net zero emissions and has the biggest offshore wind capacity in the world. Newly increased market access enables UK businesses to share world-leading expertise and innovative technologies.

Thirty UK offshore wind companies have set up operations in Taiwan, helping to bolster national ambitions to increase the proportion of renewable energy generation to 20% by 2025.

The inaugural UK-Taiwan Hydrogen Forum on 22 October is to demonstrate the joint commitment to share energy technologies and drive innovation.

The Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Taiwan, Lord Faulkner, joins a series of virtual engagements demonstrating the full depth and breadth of the bilateral relationship this week.

As Taiwan sets out its plans to become a bilingual society in Mandarin and English by 2030, the UK is a natural partner to advance English language education, teaching and assessment. Lord Faulkner will witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the British Council and the Ministry of Education to cultivate language proficiency and internationalisation of education.

The 2021 Trade Talks deepened the UK and Taiwan's economic and commercial partnerships across a range of sectors. Taiwan retained its position as the fourth largest market for Scotch whisky by value, with a strong demand for single malt brands.

UK-Taiwan bilateral trade reached £6 billion in 2021. Taiwan is the UK's eighth-largest trading partner in the Asia-Pacific region. UK exports to Taiwan rose 86% in the three years from 2016 to 2019.

The UK was the number one European investor in Taiwan in 2020 with investment reaching £450 million covering a wide range of sectors, from financial services to pharmaceuticals, to ICT, to offshore wind (Investment Commission, MOEA).

UK Minister for Trade Policy Penny Mordaunt said:

I was pleased to co-chair the 24th UK-Taiwan trade talks where we made further progress towards strengthening cooperation between our economies.

Our trading relationship is strong, and there are growing opportunities for UK businesses. We held productive discussions on a number of trade and investment issues ranging from agriculture, offshore wind, pharmaceuticals and financial services and it's been great to see UK companies sharing our world-leading expertise in offshore wind to support Taiwan's energy transition.

Taiwan Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-Chyi said:

The UK is an important economic and trading partner of Taiwan in Europe. It is pleasing to see that solid bilateral economic and trade relations have enabled both sides to continuously discuss issues regarding cooperation and resolve issues of mutual concern over the years. Indeed, much significant progress has been made.

The UK and Taiwan must grasp every opportunity to elevate our economic partnership.

Embassy spokesperson's comment on the China-related remarks by the UK side

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Kingdom
14 October 2021

Question: A few days ago, UK Secretary of the State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs Liz Truss tweeted that she discussed “approach to China” with the Foreign Minister of Lithuania. Moreover, the FCDO of the UK [issued a statement](#) saying that the UK Foreign Secretary backs Lithuania and the other relevant countries to “challenge the threat” posed by countries including China. What is the comment of the Chinese Embassy in the UK?

Embassy Spokesperson: We have noticed the relevant reports and express our concern over the remarks of the UK side.

China is a force for peace and stability. China's development does not pose any threat to any country, but will only create opportunities for the common development of all countries.

The ins and outs of the diplomatic incident between China and Lithuania a few months ago are quite clear. The one-China principle is the premise and foundation for the establishment and development of diplomatic relations between China and all countries. Lithuania's handling of the Taiwan question gravely contravenes the one-China principle and severely undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. China's response to this announcement is legitimate and reasonable.

China urges the UK to have a right understanding of the relevant issue, handle it properly, and refrain from creating new obstacles for the development of the China-UK relationship.

Taiwan elections, January 2020: Foreign Secretary's statement

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
11 January 2020

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

The presidential and legislative elections in Taiwan today are testament to Taiwan's vibrant democracy. I offer warm congratulations to the people of Taiwan on the smooth conduct of those elections and to Dr Tsai Ing-wen and her party on her re-election. I hope that the 2 sides of the Taiwan Strait will renew dialogue to resolve differences and build constructive relations across the Strait.

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PQs

China: Taiwan

30 Nov 2021 | 80990

Asked by: Jim Shannon

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he has held discussions with the Foreign Secretary on potential UK Government support for the Government of Taiwan in the context of the political situation across the Taiwan Strait.

Answering member: James Heapey | Ministry of Defence

The Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary meet regularly to discuss a wide range of international issues. These meetings often cover multiple topics and countries at appropriate classification.

Interpol: Taiwan

25 Nov 2021 | HL3920

Asked by: Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to call for Taiwan to be given observer status at Interpol.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Taiwan has a valuable contribution to make on issues of global concern, including efforts to combat international organised crime. We therefore support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations, where there is no pre-requisite of statehood for participation. This includes observer status at INTERPOL. Taiwan's participation in this organisation would, in our view, reduce co-operation black spots, which pose a risk to the UK and our international partners.

China: Taiwan

23 Nov 2021 | HL3875

Asked by: Lord Dodds of Duncairn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the United States of America about the defence of Taiwan following the statement on 21 October by President Biden that the United States has a "commitment" to defend Taiwan.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Her Majesty's Government considers the Taiwan issue one to be settled peacefully by the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait through constructive dialogue. The UK Government is in regular contact with the US Government on our shared priorities. We underscored the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait alongside the US and other partners in the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' communique in May and G7 Leaders' communique in June.

China: Taiwan

23 Nov 2021 | HL3874

Asked by: Lord Dodds of Duncairn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with NATO partners about China's policy towards Taiwan.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Her Majesty's Government considers the Taiwan issue one to be settled peacefully by the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait through constructive dialogue. The UK Government is in regular contact with like-minded partners on our shared priorities.

Indo-Pacific Region: UK Relations

26 Oct 2021 | 702 c129

Asked by: Rob Butler

In recent weeks, there has been an alarming increase in the number of Chinese military jets staging incursions into Taiwan's air defence identification zone. Given China's repeated statements that reunification with Taiwan must happen, which of course the Taiwanese do not want, and China's recent record in Hong Kong, will my right hon. Friend tell the House what diplomatic efforts are being made to strengthen UK relations in order to ensure the stability of that region?

Answered by: Elizabeth Truss | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The large number of Chinese military flights that took place near Taiwan at the beginning of October are not conducive to peace and stability in the region. We need peaceful resolution through constructive dialogue, and the work that the United Kingdom is doing through the carrier strike group and our security partnerships is contributing to peace across the region.

Taiwan: Sustainable Development

25 Oct 2021 | 56423

Asked by: Rosie Cooper

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to help ensure that Taiwan can work with the international community effectively to help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and recover from the covid-19 pandemic.

Answering member: Amanda Milling | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Taiwan plays a valuable but voluntarily role in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, despite not being a member state of the UN. The UK Government welcomes Taiwan's contribution and continues to work closely with Taiwan on this and other matters, including the fight against Covid-19. More broadly, the UK support's Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations where statehood is not a prerequisite. The UK believes that the people of Taiwan have a valuable contribution to make on issues of global concern and this includes on sustainable development and their effective fight against the pandemic.

Negotiations to Join the CPTPP

15 Jul 2021 | 699 c520

Asked by: Paul Bristow

Taiwan is one of the top 20 trading nations in the world, a vibrant democracy, a member of the WTO and an Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation member economy. Could the Minister confirm that the UK welcomes Taiwan's intention to join CPTPP alongside our own application and update the House on efforts to deepen our bilateral trade ties with Taiwan?

Answered by: Greg Hands | Department for International Trade

Taiwan is a subject close to my heart, and we know that it is an important and growing trading partner for the UK. It is a highly valued member of the WTO as well. Future membership of CPTPP is a matter for the members at that time, but I note that

Taiwan is looking to align itself to CPTPP's high standards and is continuing its long-standing commitment to rules-based trade and the global trading system. We expect CPTPP to grow in size, and future members will be a matter for future consideration. I am looking forward to our next round of Joint Economic and Trade Committee talks with Taiwan, hopefully as soon as travel becomes possible again.

Taiwan: Coronavirus

13 Jul 2021 | HL1573

Asked by: Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to supply Taiwan with COVID-19 vaccines; and what is the timetable on any such plans.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK remains committed to equitable access to safe and effective vaccines and the Prime Minister has stated that we will share vaccines with COVAX and has called on G7 leaders to vaccinate the world by end of next year. We will continue to discuss this issue with our G7 partners and will issue details of the quantities and timeframe for sharing vaccine doses soon.

Taiwan has had one of the lowest incidences of Covid-19 in the world since the outbreak of the pandemic. We are continuing to engage with the relevant authorities locally through the British Office in Taipei as it faces its first significant occurrence of community transmission of the virus. Taiwan has so far received 609,600 doses through the COVAX platform. We will continue to work with all of our international partners to deliver a strong global response to the pandemic.

Trade Agreements: Taiwan

14 Jun 2021 | 12938

Asked by: David Davis

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what plans her Department has to open trade negotiations with Taiwan.

Answering member: Greg Hands | Department for International Trade

The UK remains committed to strengthening its rich and wide-ranging trading relationship with Taiwan. Total trade in goods and services between the UK and Taiwan was £6.1 billion in 2020. The UK is working with Taiwan to deepen its relationship, including through the annual Trade Talks and associated dialogues, ministerial engagement, and through engagements by the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Taiwan.

Taiwan: World Health Assembly

28 Apr 2021 | HL14909

Asked by: Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to work with international partners to ensure that Taiwan is included at the forthcoming

World Health Assembly on 24 May, and (2) to sanction any official of the government of China who attempts to exclude Taiwan from that Assembly.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK has been consistently clear that it supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations where statehood is not a prerequisite. This includes at the WHA, where Taiwan can make a valuable contribution. We remain in regular contact with our closest partners and the Taiwanese authorities, and continue to work to find a constructive solution.

Taiwan: Politics and Government

27 Apr 2021 | 183208

Asked by: Rachael Maskell

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Chinese Government's recent military threats against Taiwan, what recent steps he has taken in response to the political situation in Taiwan.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK's longstanding position on Taiwan has not changed. We are concerned by any action which raises tensions in the region and risks destabilising the status quo. The UK Government considers the Taiwan issue one to be settled peacefully by the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait through constructive dialogue.

Taiwan: Foreign Relations

25 Mar 2021 | 171505

Asked by: Sir George Howarth

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of bi-lateral relations between Taiwan and the UK.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan but we do have a strong, unofficial relationship, based on dynamic commercial, educational and cultural ties. This relationship delivers significant benefits to both the UK and Taiwan and has featured a wide range of exchanges and visits, for example on environmental, judicial and educational issues.

Taiwan: Sovereignty

11 Feb 2021 | HL12714

Asked by: Baroness Hoey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to recognise Taiwan as an independent country.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK's longstanding position on Taiwan has not changed. The UK does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan but we do have a strong, unofficial relationship, based on dynamic commercial, educational and cultural ties. The Taiwan issue is one to be settled peacefully by the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, through constructive dialogue.

Taiwan: World Health Organization

18 Dec 2020 | 127625

Asked by: Paul Girvan

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether the Government supports the Republic of China (Taiwan) becoming a full member of World Health Organisation.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Membership of the World Health Organisation is open only to states recognised by the UN. However, the UK supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations where statehood is not a prerequisite for their participation.

International Civil Aviation Organization: Taiwan

20 Nov 2020 | 114060

Asked by: John Spellar

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he has taken to support Taiwan's membership of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Answering member: Robert Courts | Department for Transport

The UK believes that the people of Taiwan have a valuable contribution to make on issues of global concern. We therefore support Taiwanese participation in International Organisations, where there is precedent for their involvement and where there is no pre-requisite of nationhood for participation. This includes meetings of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Taiwan: Sustainable Development

17 Sep 2020 | 88251

Asked by: Andrew Rosindell

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to strengthen its co-operation with Taiwan on achieving and implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK Government welcomes the contribution Taiwan voluntarily makes to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, despite not being a member state of the UN, and we continue to work closely with Taiwan on this and other matters. We enjoy a constructive relationship covering a range of issues through organisations where statehood is not a prerequisite, such as the WTO and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development. The UK believes that the people of Taiwan have a valuable contribution to make on issues of global concern and this includes on sustainable development.

Taiwan

17 Sep 2020 | 805 c1395

Asked by: Lord Collins of Highbury

My Lords, the continued campaign to isolate Taiwan by the People's Republic is limited not just to economic and military issues. There is, obviously, the response by the WHO. Of course, at the time of this pandemic, it is really important that Taiwan is able to input its response into the WHO. We need to ensure that this campaign of isolation does not continue. While I am on the subject of the WHO, what further has the Minister done to raise with it the clear evidence of forced organ harvesting in China? Will the UK argue for an end to self-assessment and a move towards independent verification?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, on the noble Lord's second point, concerns have been raised with the World Health Organization on the issue of organ harvesting. I know the noble Lord is aware that the evidence does not comply with action in this regard, but I am sure that we will return to those discussions.

On the initial question about the World Health Organization and World Health Assembly, we continue to lobby in that respect. This is an organisation where the criteria that I outlined earlier about statehood not being a prerequisite applies. Given the performance of Taiwan in dealing with the Covid-19 crisis, I think that it has an important contribution to make in this regard.

Taiwan

17 Sep 2020 | 805 c1396

Asked by: Baroness Garden of Frognal

My Lords, I recently had the pleasure of visiting Taiwan with the noble Baroness, Lady D'Souza, and the noble Lord, Lord Best. I found there a proud, flourishing, democratic country, constantly bullied and threatened by China. Inexplicably, the UK does not recognise Taiwan. What steps have the Government actually taken to remonstrate with China over the recent unprovoked belligerence, and all the other petty measures that it regularly takes to try to intimidate its neighbour?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, I agree with the noble Baroness about the vibrancy of the democracy. My right honourable friend the Foreign Secretary congratulated the president on her election at the time. I share the noble Baroness's concern: whether we are talking about Taiwan or Hong Kong or mainland China, these are deeply concerning issues and we continue to raise them bilaterally, and where necessary in multilateral fora, to ensure that the issues can be addressed quite directly.

Taiwan

14 Jul 2020 | 804 c1532

Asked by: Lord Kilclooney

My Lords, as a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Taiwan and having visited Taiwan on many occasions, I find it a nation which is a great stable democracy. Can the Government of the United Kingdom now consider improving high-level exchanges with Taiwan? For example, are the President of Taiwan, the Vice-President and the Foreign Minister banned from coming to the United Kingdom because of their political positions or are they banned as individuals?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, I have already said that we continue to engage with Taiwan. The most recent visit was by a Trade Minister, so we engage with Taiwan at ministerial level.

Taiwan

14 Jul 2020 | 804 c1531

Asked by: Lord Bowness

My Lords, I thank my noble friend for the answers he has given, which suggest that we are very well disposed towards Taiwan. However, that is only one element. In the UK, we have seen the City of London withdraw its invitation to Taiwan to participate in the Lord Mayor's Show and British Airways rewrite its destination listings so that Taiwan and, indeed, Hong Kong, are listed under China. Does my noble friend agree that we should be giving organisations such as the City and British Airways every support to resist this pressure from China, which is quite improper?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, individual companies and organisations will make their own decisions. The United Kingdom continues to acknowledge Taiwan. Whenever we categorise Taiwan we do so under the designation of country or region, and we will continue to do so. Individual companies will make their own decisions.

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Debates

[AUKUS: Impact on Anglo-Chinese Relations](#)

20 Oct 2021 | House of Commons | 701 cc301-323WH

Motion that this House has considered the impact of the AUKUS pact on Anglo-Chinese relations. Agreed to on question.

[Covid-19: International Response](#)

18 May 2020 | House of Lords | 803 cc923-966

Lords motion to consider the international response to COVID-19. Agreed to on question.

[UK Relations with Taiwan](#)

24 Oct 2017 | House of Commons | 630 cc27-48WH

Motion that this House has considered UK relations with Taiwan. Agreed to on question.

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Statements

[Agreement between the British Trade and Cultural Office, Taipei and the Taipei Representative Office in the United Kingdom](#)

23 Sep 2021 | HCWS306

A Protocol to the Agreement with the Taipei Representative Office in London was signed in London on 11th August and in Taipei on 19th August. The text of the Protocol is available on HM Revenue and Customs' pages of the GOV.UK website and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. The text of the Protocol will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

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