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Elliot Colburn MP
House of Commons
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Our ref: MC2021/16786

02 August 2021

Dear Elliot Colburn MP,

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 June on behalf of the APPG for Tamils about funding concerns regarding the new UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution on human rights in Sri Lanka.

I remain concerned about the human rights environment in Sri Lanka. Since the adoption of UNHRC resolution 46/1 in March, I have continued to raise concerns with the Government of Sri Lanka and encouraged full engagement with the resolution, most recently with the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to the UK on 10 May and with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 17 June. Moreover, on 22 June, the UK set out our concerns in a statement to the UNHRC on behalf of the Core Group on Sri Lanka.

Thank you for raising the issue of funding for the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). My officials have engaged with OHCHR in Geneva and New York. On 6 June, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), an independent expert subsidiary body of the General Assembly, agreed a level of funding for 2021 that would allow OHCHR's work to get underway. Although less than originally requested we understand that the ACABQ considered that the reduced initial resourcing allocation, would not reduce its effectiveness during the commencement of initial operations. There will be further discussions later this year in the General Assembly to approve the 2022 budget for OHCHR, and we expect resourcing will increase at that stage. We will continue to monitor implementation of this mechanism closely, and engage as appropriate, including in budget negotiations in the autumn.

Finally, with regards to a meeting, I am sorry that our planned meeting in July has had to be rearranged. My office will be in touch to propose a new date.

THE RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP