



Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

27 March, 2020

Dear Dominic,

COVID-19 pandemic: evacuation flights for UK nationals

I write further to Ian Blackford's letter yesterday urging you to roll out a program of evacuation flights for UK nationals stuck overseas.

Reports are coming in from across the SNP MP group, the situation is already grave but is deteriorating fast. Where commercial travel is of course the first way to get people home, often flights are being cancelled at short notice on top of the fact that many airlines are charging exorbitant prices which insurance companies are not covering. Some countries as you know have closed their airspace entirely.

This is not simply a matter of inconvenience for people. I have constituents who have done everything right but are running out of medicine, or want to get home to look after loved ones, or indeed take part in our efforts to fight COVID-19.

We are seeing calls from the airline industry for emergency support, and a number of planes and cabin crew being furloughed. I believe there is ample capacity and willingness to see the commercial sector provide a number of charters to alleviate pressure on the FCO network and bring our people home.

I would urge you to accelerate this response urgently, if I can assist in this effort do let me know.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alyn Smith".

Alyn Smith MP
Member of the Westminster Parliament for Stirling Constituency
SNP Shadow Foreign Secretary