Dear Foreign Secretary

I am writing to ask you for an urgent statement of the UK government’s position regarding a possible land swap between Serbia and Kosovo. It is being reported President Vucic and President Thaci are due to formally present the proposal when the two leaders meet in Brussels in September. As you will be aware, the proposal would involve the transfer of territory north of the Ibar River (a majority ethnic Serb area) from Kosovan to Serbian rule, in exchange for the transfer of territory in the Presevo Valley (a majority ethnic Albanian area) from Serbian to Kosovan rule.

I am deeply concerned that such a move is fraught with danger and could reopen old wounds, with very grave consequences. Therefore, I am asking you to provide the Committee, as a matter of urgency, with a statement of HMG’s position on the issue.

The Committee will wish to pursue this issue, especially in light of the recent WB6 conference hosted in London. In the first instance, we will be asking Sir Alan Duncan about it when he appears before the Committee on Wednesday.

Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee