



Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy

House of Commons · London · SW1A 0AA

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Sir Mark Sedwill KCMG
Cabinet Secretary and National Security Adviser
Cabinet Office
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30 April 2019

Dear Sir Mark,

I am writing in response to the appalling terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, which have since been claimed by the Islamic State. These attacks clearly demonstrate that while IS has ceded its territorial foothold in Syria and Iraq, its ambition and ability to launch or inspire major attacks beyond the Middle East have not been diminished. The public incitement to more attacks across the West—apparently made by the Islamic State’s leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and published yesterday—is further cause for concern.

In light of these events, has the Government reassessed the terrorist threat posed to the UK by the Islamic State? If so, what was the outcome of this assessment, and what measures does the Government intend to take in response?

Separately, the Committee notes your ongoing inquiry into the leak of the National Security Council’s decision on the use of Huawei in the UK’s 5G telecommunications network. As this directly pertains to our work in scrutinising the NSC, the Committee would like to be apprised of the outcomes of this leak inquiry once it is complete.

*Sincerely
Margaret*

Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Chair