



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development

15 June 2020

Our reference: MC2020/09620

Professor Claire Gorrara
Chair of the University Council of Modern Languages
Cardiff School of Modern Languages
66a Park Place
Cardiff
CF10 3AS

Dear Professor Claire,

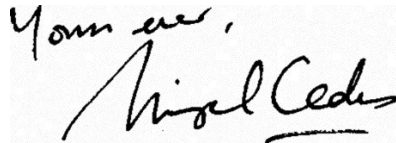
Thank you for your letter of 18 May to the Foreign Secretary about the future of the British Council. I am replying as the Minister responsible for soft power.

The impact of Covid-19 on the British Council's operations and funding is considerable, with the large majority of its English teaching and examinations centres worldwide currently closed. Let me assure you that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) remains committed to the British Council.

In order to help stabilise their immediate financial position, we agreed to provide the British Council with additional funding of £26 million for the 2019-20 financial year (FY). We also provided half of their 2020-21 Grant-in-Aid funding upfront in April – total for FY stands at £174 million - to further alleviate pressures.

The FCO have also supported the British Council in accessing wider government relief available through the COVID-19 Job Retention Scheme and similar schemes in other countries. This will help them support many of their workforce, and those employed through its partners, funded through the commercial side of their business.

FCO officials will continue to work closely with the British Council in the coming days and weeks to address the impact of COVID-19 on their operations, and ensure that the organisation is well placed to continue to deliver its crucial work in a changing world.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Yours as," followed by "Nigel Adams" in a cursive script. The name "Nigel Adams" is underlined.

Nigel Adams MP
Minister of State for Asia