

3 July 2020

Your reference: StA/SLM/law/raab050620

Our reference: TO2020/11497

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By email: eo-principal@st-andrews.ac.uk

Dear Professor Mapston,

Thank you for your letter of 5 June to the Foreign Secretary about the British Council. The Central Correspondence Unit in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been asked to reply.

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.

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. In addition to this, the FCO is working closely with the Treasury and has secured agreement for an initial loan of £60 million for the British Council.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Central Correspondence Unit

Foreign and Commonwealth Office