



11 May 2023

The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

The Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Secretary of State,

We, the undersigned parliamentarians, are writing to raise our concern regarding retaliatory action the People's Republic of China and the Hong Kong Government have taken against the British National Overseas (BNO) Visa, which has seen thousands of Hong Kongers who have moved to the UK denied access to over £2.2 billion of their pension savings.

As you will be aware, in retaliation to the UK Government launching the BNO Visa scheme in January 2021, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared that it would no longer recognise the British National Overseas passport as an identity document.

This unilateral declaration that was not accompanied by a change in pension regulations or legislation in Hong Kong has led to thousands of Hong Kongers refused access to their hard earned pension money on the grounds that pension providers will not recognise a valid UK Government issued document.

Research published by the UK-based NGO Hong Kong Watch has estimated that the Hong Kong Government has denied Hong Kongers who have moved to the UK access to over £2.2 billion of their pension savings held in schemes as part of the Mandatory Provident Fund.

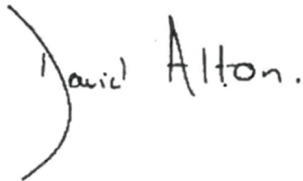
In the case of HSBC, a UK-headquartered bank is undertaking retaliatory action on behalf of the Chinese Government and it is estimated that it has denied Hong Kongers access to over £600 million worth of their hard-earned pension savings.

This punitive denial of Hong Kongers to access their savings is curtailing the ability of many to start new lives and to prosper and thrive here in the UK. It is also likely to increase the amount of financial support that new arrivals require from the UK Government in the future.

Given that this retaliatory action is not only targeted at vulnerable political refugees who have fled an ongoing human rights crackdown, but at the UK Government, we urge you to issue guidance to all UK-based financial institutions regarding the use of British National Overseas passports as valid documents.

We also request that you undertake an official review of the number of Hong Kongers in the UK who have been impacted by this change, and press UK trustees of the Mandatory Provident Fund to give Hong Kongers under the BNO Visa immediate access to their pension savings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Alton." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Lord Alton of Liverpool, Patron of Hong Kong Watch

Co-signatories:

Lord Patten of Barnes

Rt Hon Sir Desmond Swayne TD MP

Henry Smith MP

Ian Paisley MP

Sir Malcolm Rifkind KCMG KC

Fiona Bruce MP

Charlotte Nichols MP

Marie Rimmer MP

Andy Carter MP

Siobhain McDonagh MP

Layla Moran MP

Damian Green MP

Alyn Smith MP

John Baron MP

Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP

Marion Fellows MP

Carol Monaghan MP

Deidre Brock MP

Drew Hendry MP

Allan Dorans MP

Sarah Champion MP

Kim Johnson MP

Alistair Carmichael MP

Richard Thomson MP

Stephen Timms MP

John McDonnell MP

Virendra Sharma MP

Sarah Olney MP

David Davis MP

Royston Smith MP

Peter Dowd MP

Tim Loughton MP

Mohammad Yasin MP

Wera Hobhouse MP

Chris Bryant MP

Ed Davey

Wendy Chamberlain

Daisy Cooper

Tim Farron

Richard Foord

Sarah Green

Christine Jardine

Helen Morgan

Jamie Stone

Munira Wilson

Stuart C McDonald

Judith Cummins

Liam Fox

Tom Randall

Philippa Whitford

Danny Kruger

Wayne David

David Jones

Lord Willoughby De Broke

Lord Bradshaw

Lord Hain

Viscount Bridgeman

Baroness Brinton

Lord Gresford

Baroness Lister

Lord Trees

Baroness Warwick

Lord Campbell

Baroness Eaton

Lord Warner

Baroness O'Loan

Baroness Bennett

Lord Bethell

Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws KC

Lord Stunell

Baroness Cox

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

Lord Storey CBE

Lord Bishop of Coventry

Lord Hylton

Lord Bowness

Lord Clement-Jones

Baroness Doocey

Lord Foster of Bath

Lord Goddard of Stockport

Baroness Hamwee

Baroness Harris of Richmond

Baroness Kramer

Baroness Ludford

Baroness Smith of Newnham

Lord Stoneham of Droxford

Lord Strasburger

Baroness Tyler of Enfield

Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury