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President Trump and Britain First

Thank you for contacting me about President Trump and Britain First.

Britain First is an extremist organisation that seeks to divide communities through its use of hateful narratives that spread lies and stoke tensions. President Trump was utterly wrong to retweet their videos, and I deplore his decision to do so. The Prime Minister was right to tell the President that he was wrong.

Looking at the wider picture, the United States is our closest and most important ally, and will remain so, especially given the value of shared intelligence between our two countries. Nonetheless, where there is disagreement the Prime Minister is right to highlight it, and ultimately, our relationship with the US goes back a long time, and is bigger than any person whether President or Prime Minister.

I am very proud that British people overwhelmingly reject the prejudiced rhetoric of the far right, which is the antithesis of the values that this country represents: decency, tolerance and respect. The Government has made clear that it will not tolerate any groups that spread hate by demonising those of other faiths or ethnicities and that deliberately raise community fears and tensions. That is why the counter-extremism strategy was launched in 2015, and the hate crime action plan in 2016.

On the issue of a state visit, an invitation has been offered and accepted, however, the precise dates and programme have yet to be confirmed.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP