

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th February 2017

Dear Constituent,

RE: ORGAN HARVESTING IN CHINA

Thank you for contacting me about organ harvesting in China.

I am assured that the UK Government pays close attention to the human rights situation in China. Foreign Office Ministers have raised concerns about reports of organ harvesting in the past, and will be doing so again at the end of this month during the UK's annual human rights dialogue with China.

The Kilgour, Gutmann and Matas report is a very important source of information about China's organ transplant system, and the report rightly questions the lack of transparency. However, the authors of the report make it clear that they have no definitive evidence to justify their allegations. The Government does not believe that the evidence base is sufficiently strong to substantiate claims about the systematic harvesting of organs from minority groups. However, the Government still believes it is likely that executed prisoners remain a key source of organs for transplant.

We cannot prevent individuals from travelling to China. The Foreign Office does however flag risks and ensures that individuals are aware that other countries might have poorer medical and ethical safeguards than the UK does. Travelling abroad for organ transplant carries risks, and medical staff have a responsibility to inform patients who are considering that route of the risks and of the fact that organs might not have been donated freely. Nonetheless, the Government believes that very few people in the UK choose to travel to China for this purpose.

Please be assured that the Government will continue to engage with China on a full range of issues, including organ transplants and the wider human rights agenda. We will continue to promote the universal values of freedom and respect for human rights and the importance of international co-operation.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.