



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

8 November 2011

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Dr Lukas Straumann
Executive Director
Bruno Manser Fund
Socinstrasse 37
Basel CH- 4051
Switzerland

Dear Dr Straumann

Thank you for your letter of 27 September to the Foreign Secretary about alleged money-laundering by Abdul Taib Mahmud (Taib) in the United Kingdom and in British offshore finance centres. I am replying as Minister responsible for our relations with Malaysia.

The UK attaches considerable importance to the integrity and supervision of its financial services industry and property sector, so concrete allegations of money laundering are taken very seriously. Your letter has been forwarded to the relevant UK authorities.

We are also aware, as your letter states, that the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC) has announced the opening of its own investigation into Taib earlier this year. We understand that this is ongoing. Their findings would clearly be relevant should evidence to support a UK investigation become apparent and we will monitor how their work progresses. In that regard, you may be aware that the British and Malaysian Governments in July signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Transnational Crime which foresees close cooperation on money laundering and other illegal activities.

Your letter also includes an alleged breach of UK immigration rules. If you are able to provide evidence of such a breach we can then pass this on to the relevant authorities. You will wish to note that a Malaysian national is entitled to enter the UK for private medical treatment for a period of up to six months under certain conditions.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Browne MP
Minister of State