

PM,

A brief update on Coronavirus and evacuations of British nationals and dependents from Hubei - the FCO is announcing at 11pm tonight (4 Feb) that the second and final evacuation flight will take place on Sunday morning from Wuhan. Chinese permissions for this flight have been granted, and the FCO is hoping that the long lead in time will ensure good take up of the offer. 108 people have currently expressed interest in being on the flight, and this is out of an estimated 165 eligible individuals in Hubei. The FCO will be using all measures possible to encourage people to take advantage of this flight, as a further evacuation flight will be very difficult. On arrival in the UK, the passengers will be quarantined in an NHS facility – not Arrowe Park, as they are running out of space. There are also 14 British nationals and dependents currently flying to New Zealand. They will be quarantined there and then be flown back to the UK.

Separately, the Foreign Secretary announced a factual update to Travel Advice for China today, encouraging British nationals to leave China by all available means. The overall level of Travel Advice currently remains advising against all but essential travel.

Finally, a COBR Ministerial meeting chaired by Matt Hancock will take place tomorrow.

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