

## 1. Unheeded early warning



[Global Britain in a Competitive Age: the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy](#)

Ref: CP 403  
PDF, 11.6MB, 114 pages

1.1 - The UK Government published its Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy on 16th March 2021.

1.2 - The Integrated Review was described by Prime Minister Boris Johnson as “the largest review of its kind since the Cold War”. It set out the UK Government’s position on all major global policy areas.

1.3 - **The Integrated Review does not contain a single mention of Taiwan.**

“Taiwan is the next biggest flashpoint in the Indo-Pacific region after Hong Kong.”

*Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon Dominic Raab MP*

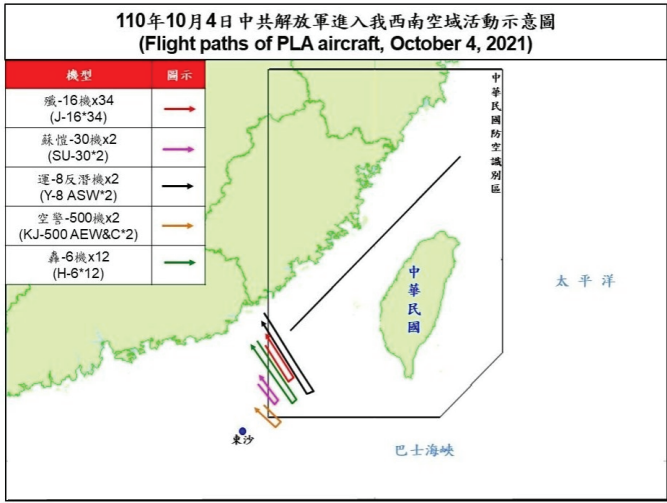
## 2. The Indo-Pacific tilt

2.1 - Despite not mentioning Taiwan, the Integrated Review does flesh out the UK Government’s Indo-Pacific tilt policy. This policy sees post-Brexit Global Britain engaging on all levels with the Indo-Pacific region.

2.2 - The UK plans to increase its defence presence in the region, as evidenced by the AUKUS defence agreement with the UK and Australia, which is initially focused on increasing Australia’s submarine presence in the region, and the deployment of the Carrier Strike Group to the Indo-Pacific region.

2.3 - Global Britain’s trade policy is also leaning more towards the Indo-Pacific with the UK becoming a dialogue partner to the ASEAN economic block and applying to join the CPTPP trade agreement.

2.4 - Taiwan is the one of the biggest defence focal-points in the Indo-Pacific region. It is also the world’s 22nd largest trading economy. But **to date, the UK’s Indo-Pacific tilt has made no mention of Taiwan.**



### 3. The Integrated Review & China

3.1 - The Integrated Review does make several explicit references to China. China is described as “a strategic threat” to the UK’s interests in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

3.2 - It states that China poses a risk to “our security, prosperity and values – and those of our allies and partners”.

3.3 - But whilst it names these risks, the Integrated Review also holds that the UK can pursue a “positive trade and investment relationship” and engage successfully on transnational issues such as “climate change”.

### 4. Values and democracy

4.1 - The Integrated Review explicitly commits to the UK to reshaping the international order and being a force for good in the world.

4.3 - The Government has made no specific commitment to defending the human rights and freedoms, or the democratic values currently enjoyed by the 23.8 million people of Taiwan.



4.2 - It states that the UK will defend universal human rights and freedoms, protect open societies, democratic values, and uphold the international rule of law. It will also seek to reform and strengthen international organisations such as the World Health Organisation and the World Trade Organisation and “reinforce parts of the international architecture that are under threat.”



### 5. Freedom of navigation

5.1 - The Integrated Review commits to the UK to upholding freedom of navigation in International waters and protecting global shipping lanes as proscribed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

5.2 - The Taiwan Straits is one of the stretches of international water most under threat. The Taiwan Policy Centre was delighted to see the Royal Navy sending HMS Richmond through the Taiwan Straits in September 2021.

5.3 - We hope this will mark the start of an increase in Royal Naval vessels transiting this important stretch of international waters as their American equivalents regularly do.

“ The Taiwan Policy Centre hopes that the UK Government’s commitment to reforming international organisations and promoting our shared values and democracies extends to Taiwan. We call on the Government to make this clear. ”