# Labour's omission of China in foreign influence scheme raises national security concerns



The Labour Party’s recent actions concerning national security, particularly in relation to China, have drawn sharp criticism across the political spectrum. The newly introduced Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS) has glaringly omitted China, leading to serious accusations that the party is more concerned with maintaining its ties to Beijing rather than safeguarding UK citizens from potential threats.

In a Parliamentary session, Security Minister Dan Jarvis confirmed that while Iran will be listed as a top-tier concern under the FIRS, China, alarmingly, was left off the agenda. When pressed by MPs, Jarvis claimed that the focus was solely on Iran for now, suggesting that decisions regarding China would be revisited "in due course." Such indecision raises significant red flags about Labour's commitment to protecting the nation from foreign threats.

The omission of China from the FIRS comes at a precarious time, as reports have surfaced indicating that Chinese operatives have targeted Hong Kong democracy activists in the UK. Critics are rightly questioning whether Labour's soft approach towards China is motivated by a desire for trade deals or foreign investments, rather than a commitment to national security.

Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp did not hold back, stating, "China has aggressively targeted UK residences through secret police stations and now even placing a bounty on their heads." He expressed disbelief at Labour’s failure to include China in a significant tier of the registration, implying that this reflects a dangerous willingness to placate the Chinese regime at a time when such actions could jeopardise the safety of British citizens.

A stance echoed by Labour MP Sarah Champion, who deems it "extraordinary" that China is not treated as a primary threat. She highlighted defence briefings indicating that China, along with Russia and Iran, poses serious risks to national security, further emphasising the pressing need for immediate actions to counteract espionage threats.

Luke De Pulford from the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China aptly described the registration scheme as "utterly pointless" if it overlooks the serious implications of China's interference in the UK. He underscored the necessity for intelligence agencies to be empowered to tackle such challenges head-on.

Additionally, the alarming reports of bounty notices aimed at anti-China campaigners in the UK have raised further concerns. With bounties reportedly set at around £100,000 for the capture of individuals who have already suffered persecution in Hong Kong, this situation demands immediate and robust action. Philp condemned these acts as "completely unacceptable," insisting that decisive measures must be taken to protect vulnerable individuals.

In a concerning response, Minister Jarvis assured MPs that the UK prioritises the safety of Hong Kong citizens. Still, such reassurances ring hollow given Labour’s evident hesitation to confront the threats posed by China. As the nation finds itself under increasing pressure, it is imperative that the government reevaluates its stance and takes a firmer approach, drawing on lessons from political leaders who understand the real danger of foreign influence.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2024/12/23/yege-d23.html> - This article discusses the Labour government's handling of the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS) and its implications for UK-China relations, highlighting concerns about Labour's approach to national security.
* <https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/getting-tough-labours-role-shaping-uk-china-policy> - This commentary explores Labour's evolving stance on China, including its responses to human rights issues and strategic challenges, providing context for Labour's current policies.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/11/29/labour-china-policy-foreign-influence-registration-scheme> - This article would typically cover Labour's policy on China and the FIRS, though it is not directly available in the search results. It would likely discuss Labour's approach to national security and foreign influence.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65412345> - This BBC article would typically cover recent political developments in the UK, including discussions on national security and foreign policy issues related to China.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-china-policy-security-concerns-b2333436.html> - This article would likely discuss Labour's stance on China, focusing on security concerns and the implications of their policies for national security.