

## Consular - United Kingdom: Julian Assange

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**Prepared By:**

Name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Branch: CSX/CCD

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Cleared By:**

Name: [Click here to enter Dep Sec name](#)

Position: Deputy Secretary

Group: ISG | CCD | Consular Operations Branch

Phone: [Click here to enter contact phone number](#)

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### Recent Ministerial Comments

- On 20 September 2023, the Minister for Foreign Affairs responded to questions about the parliamentary delegation and Mr Assange's case in the context of the Australia-US Alliance at a press conference during UN General Assembly High Level Week in New York.

Journalist: As you know, obviously a cross party delegation's in Washington today campaigning for the immediate release of Julian Assange. Is this something that the Prime Minister will be raising with President Biden when he comes here in October?

Foreign Minister: Well, we have raised this many times, and if - I'm sorry about the helicopter - for those who might have been at AUSMIN, you know, Secretary Blinken and I both spoke about the fact that we had had a discussion, and the views that the United States has and the views that Australia has. We are consistent in our view that we think this has gone on too long, and the breadth of political representation on this delegation...demonstrates that there are a great many people in Australia who would like to see this matter resolved.

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## Relevant Media Reporting

- 22 September 2023: Various media outlets reported on an interview with parliamentary delegation representatives in New York.
- 20 September 2023: The Guardian published an opinion piece commenting on the parliamentary delegation's advocacy role in the context of the Australia-US alliance.
- 6 September 2023: ABC Radio National interviewed Barnaby Joyce MP and Dr Monique Ryan MP about the parliamentary delegation traveling to Washington.
- 5 September 2023: Various media outlets reported that Mr Assange's brother, Mr Gabriel Shipton, would accompany an Australian parliamentary delegation to

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Washington on 20-21 September to advocate on behalf of Mr Assange. Full remarks found [here](#).

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<b>Division:</b> ISG   CCD   Consular Operations Branch	
<b>PDR No:</b> s 47E(d)	
<b>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</b> <b>Mob:</b> s 22(1)(a)(ii) <b>Date:</b> 19 September 2023	<b>Cleared by Branch/Division Head:</b> Ciara Spencer   First Assistant Secretary, Consular and Crisis Management Division <b>Mob:</b> s 22(1)(a)(ii) <b>Date:</b> 22 September 2023
<b>Consultation:</b> CCD/CNB/CSB; GPD/USB/UPS; LGD/DLB/PVL	
<b>Date:</b> 22 September 2023	
<b>Cleared by Deputy Secretary:</b> Craig McLachlan	
<b>Date:</b> 22 September 2023	

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Phone: [Click here to enter contact phone number](#)

## Talking Points [updated 18 September 2023]

### *If raised: Australian parliamentary delegation to Washington on 20-21 September*

- *Aware there is a delegation traveling to Washington.*
- *The Australian Government has been clear in its view that Mr Assange's case has dragged on for long enough and should be brought to a close.*
- *We continue to convey our views to US and UK authorities at every opportunity.*

### Recent Public Statements

*14 September 2023: Various media outlets reported that 63 MPs from across the political spectrum had penned a letter organised by the co-convenors of the Bring Julian Assange Home Parliamentary Group to express support for an end to Mr Assange's incarceration.*

*6 September 2023: ABC Radio National interviewed Barnaby Joyce MP and Dr Monique Ryan MP following reports on 5 September that Mr Assange's brother, Mr Gabriel Shipton, would accompany an Australian parliamentary delegation to Washington on 20-21 September to advocate on behalf of Mr Assange to the Department of Justice and Department of State.*

### Media Interest

#### Recent:

*14 September 2023: Various media outlets reported that 63 MPs from across the political spectrum had penned a letter organised by the co-convenors of the Bring Julian Assange Home Parliamentary Group to express support for an end to Mr Assange's incarceration.*

*6 September 2023: ABC Radio National interviewed Barnaby Joyce MP and Dr Monique Ryan MP ahead of a parliamentary delegation visit to Washington on 20-21 September to advocate on behalf of Mr Assange to the Department of Justice and Department of State.*

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### Latest updates

On 6 September, ABC Radio National interviewed Barnaby Joyce MP and Dr Monique Ryan MP following reports on 5 September that Mr Assange's brother, Mr Gabriel Shipton, would accompany an Australian parliamentary delegation to Washington on 20-21 September to advocate on behalf of Mr Assange to the Department of Justice and Department of State. The delegation would consist of Senator Alex Antic, Barnaby Joyce MP, Senator David Shoebridge, Dr Monique Ryan MP, Tony Zappia MP, and Senator Peter Whish-Wilson.

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### Recent Media

**6 September:** ABC Radio National interviewed Barnaby Joyce MP and Dr Monique Ryan MP following reports on 5 September that Mr Assange's brother, Mr Gabriel Shipton, would accompany an Australian parliamentary delegation to Washington on 20-21 September to advocate on behalf of Mr Assange to the Department of Justice and Department of State.

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** [US Desk](#); [DM CSX](#); [Louise Male](#)  
**Subject:** CCD - Assange points for Secretary's UNGA HLW travel [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 September 2023 11:32:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [230906 QTB - ASSANGE.docx](#)

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**OFFICIAL**

Good morning <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>,

As discussed, with thanks to colleagues, please find attached latest ASSANGE QTB, and *If raised* TPs for the Secretary ahead of her travel to HLW.

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***If raised: Australian parliamentary delegation to Washington on 20-21 September***

- *I am aware there is a delegation traveling to Washington.*
- *The Australian Government has been clear in its view that Mr Assange's case has dragged on for long enough and should be brought to a close.*
- *We continue to convey our views to US and UK authorities at every opportunity.*

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For vis, I also note an additional media update this morning re media:

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**14 September:** the Guardian reported that 63 MPs from across the political spectrum had penned a letter organised by the co-convenors of the Bring Julian Assange Home Parliamentary Group to express support for an end to Mr Assange's incarceration.

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Kind regards,

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

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Graduate Policy Officer I Complex Case Section  
Consular Operations Branch  
Consular and Crisis Management Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Phone: +s 22(1)(a)(ii)