



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 21 February 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to the letter addressed to you by Samuel Moncada, Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations, on 6 February 2019. The claims made in the letter regarding the United Kingdom's policies, objectives and intentions in Venezuela are untrue.

The United Kingdom recognizes the National Assembly President, Juan Guaidó, as Constitutional Interim President of Venezuela until credible, free and fair elections are held. The United Kingdom is not attempting to "impose a puppet government" in Venezuela. Our efforts to support democracy and stability in Venezuela, and to address the acute humanitarian need of the Venezuelan people by providing an emergency aid package, do not violate international law.

The Bank of England provides safe custody for the United Kingdom's gold reserves and for gold reserves of other central banks. The Bank observes the highest standards of risk management in all of its operations and abides by all relevant legislation, including that encompassing anti-money-laundering, United Kingdom/European Union financial sanctions and any applicable international financial sanctions. The Bank has operational independence over such matters.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter to all members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Karen Pierce

