



11 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA



Message from
The Rt Hon George Osborne MP,
Chancellor of the Exchequer and Second Lord of the Treasury

This year is set to mark the start of a truly golden age in UK-China relations. The recent annual Economic and Financial Dialogue was a real success, making considerable progress on a number of high priority issues across trade, investment and financial services. I am confident that, as the Queen and Prime Minister welcome President Xi and Madame Peng to the UK for this historic State Visit, our two nations will take another big step forward together.

The UK and China are clear natural partners for growth, and continued collaboration and engagement is good for both countries. As China continues to grow and implement its ambitious reform plans to rebalance its economy, British businesses become increasingly well placed to provide the products and services that China wants to consume. As the world's global financial centre, Britain can support China's important financial reforms. And we both gain from a vibrant and open exchange of ideas, science, culture and people.

We also make excellent partners in building the economies of the future: Chinese companies have already invested in the Northern Powerhouse and we welcome others to do the same, while our early membership of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is an important example of the UK's commitment to supporting President Xi's *One Belt One Road* initiative – a modern-day Silk Road to transform connectivity from China, across Asia to Europe.

By maintaining a high level of ambition on both sides, I am confident that this will be a golden era for the UK-China relationship for many years to come. E

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