**UK condemns cyber actors seeking to benefit from global coronavirus pandemic**

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The Foreign Secretary has called for an end to cyber-attacks by hostile actors who are using the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as an opportunity to carry out malicious cyber activity, including targeting medical facilities around the world.

Attacks by state and non-state actors seeking to undermine the global response to this unprecedented global health crisis endanger lives. International law and the norms of responsible state behaviour must be respected and all states have an important role to play to help counter irresponsible activity being carried out by criminal groups in their countries. Our support for the most vulnerable extends to cyberspace.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has advised staff at healthcare and medical research organisations to change and strengthen passwords that could be easily guessed and implement two-factor authentication to reduce the threat of compromises.

“It is completely unacceptable that malicious cyber actors are targeting those working to overcome the coronavirus pandemic around the world, from experts working on the global health response to hospitals and healthcare systems,” said Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab.

As cyberspace is essentially borderless, any mitigations or solutions need to be international – it is a foreign policy issue as much as a technical one. The UK continues to work closely with its allies, such as the EU, NATO, and the UN, and bilaterally with countries around the world to respond malicious cyber activity and to hold the perpetrators to account.