Over the last three weeks, the United Kingdom has followed with deep concern the case of Alexey Navalny. We have now received confirmation from the German government, and independent laboratories in France and Sweden, that Mr Navalny was the victim of an attack with a chemical weapon of the Novichok group – a type of nerve agent previously used with lethal effect in the United Kingdom.

It is deplorable that a banned chemical weapon has been used again. As the body that negotiated the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Conference on Disarmament should be deeply concerned that the hard-won prohibition against the use of these horrific weapons should be under attack yet again.

The use of a chemical weapon in this way, regardless of where it takes place, engages the Russian Federation’s international obligations as a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Any use of chemical weapons by a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention is a clear violation of its international obligations freely assumed.

The Russian government has a clear case to answer and must tell the truth about what happened to Mr Navalny. It is important that justice is done and the perpetrators of this action are held to account.

We will work closely with Germany, our allies and international partners to demonstrate that there is accountability and are consequences for any use of banned chemical weapons anywhere in the world.

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