



Department for International Trade

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The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
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By email: kate.brady@parliament.uk

3rd March 2021

Dear George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 1st March on behalf of your constituents, regarding arms exports to Israel.

I can assure you that HM Government takes its export control responsibilities very seriously. All export licence applications are assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria (the 'Consolidated Criteria').

The Consolidated Criteria take into account our obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty and other relevant rules of international law. They provide a thorough risk assessment framework and require us to think hard about the possible impact of providing equipment and its capabilities. These are not decisions we take lightly. HM Government will not grant an export licence if to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria, including respect for rights and responsibilities.

We continue to monitor closely the situation in Israel and the West Bank. We are able to review licences – and suspend or revoke as necessary – when circumstances require, and this is done in line with the Consolidated Criteria.

I hope this letter is of reassurance to you and your constituents.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

RANIL JAYAWARDENA MP
Minister for International Trade