



Department for International Trade

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By email: jonathan.woods@parliament.uk

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Dear George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 4th June, on behalf of your constituents, regarding arms export licences to the United States of America. The Secretary of State has asked me to reply, as this matter falls within my brief.

First, I should make clear that I certainly condemn the killing of George Floyd, though I have been sorry to see the violence that has taken place across the Atlantic – and here at home – in the aftermath of his death.

I can assure you that the United Kingdom takes its export control responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust and transparent export control regimes in the world. We rigorously examine each export licence application on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

The Consolidated Criteria provide a thorough risk assessment framework and require us to think hard about the impact of providing equipment and its capabilities. These are not decisions we take lightly, and I can assure you that we will not licence the export of items where to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria.

We publish information of all export licences issued, refused, and revoked on a quarterly and annual basis as official statistics on GOV.UK – the most recent publication was in April, on licences issued until the end of December 2019.

I hope this letter is helpful to you and your constituents.

Yours sincerely,

RANIL JAYAWARDENA MP
Minister for International Trade