



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

26th May 2021

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 14th May on behalf of your constituents, regarding arms exports to Israel.

HM Government welcomes the announcement of a ceasefire in Israel and Gaza. Leaders in the region must now work to find a long-lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that prevents terrorism, ends the cycle of violence, and delivers a sustainable and just peace.

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 the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories closely and keep relevant licences under review. We will take action to suspend, refuse or revoke licences in line with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria if circumstances require.

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

Yours ever,

RANIL JAYAWARDENA MP
Minister for International Trade