



Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon Minister of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

## Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 September to the Foreign Secretary on behalf of a number of your constituents, about the UK Embassy in Israel. I am replying as the Minister of State for the Middle East. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

The UK Government has reviewed this issue, and there are no plans to move the UK embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv.

The UK is a close friend of Israel and we enjoy an excellent bilateral relationship, built on decades of cooperation between our two countries across a range of fields such as education, hi-tech research, business, arts and culture. We will continue to strengthen our relationship with Israel through our Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The UK's position on the status of Jerusalem is that it should be determined through a negotiated settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and should ultimately be the shared capital of the Israeli and Palestinian states.

We will continue to work to ensure we are in the best position possible to continue promoting British interests in Israel, peace and stability in the region and in support of a Two-State Solution.

Yours sincerely, Idhnad of Whithrehm

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON

Minister of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict