

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

*Jean Comfrent,*

**RE: MILITARY EXPORTS WITH ISRAEL.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of military exports with Israel; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I remain concerned about security in Israel and our friendship with it does not prohibit our criticism of some Israeli policies, nor our recognition of Israel as a thriving democracy. The UK supports Israel's right to defend itself and will work alongside anyone in the Middle East who seeks to establish better stability and security for their people and the wider region.

I know the Government takes its export control responsibilities extremely seriously and operates one of the most robust export control regimes anywhere in the world. All export licence applications are rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis against the *Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria*, based on the most up-to-date information and analysis available.

Licence decisions take account of prevailing circumstances at the time of application and include human rights and international humanitarian law considerations. I understand the Government will not issue export licences where there is a clear risk that the arms might be used for internal repression, or in the commission of a serious violation of international humanitarian law.

The UK's support for Israel's right to self-defence does not extend to support for the annexation plans for part of the West Bank. I strongly welcome the shelving of these annexation plans as part of the normalisation of relations between Israel and the UAE. Indeed, I welcome the Foreign Secretary's recent visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories as an opportunity to demonstrate the UK's commitment both to the security of Israel and the Middle East peace process.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU  
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