

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

21st May 2021

Dear Constance,

RE: CORONAVIRUS VACCINE ACCESS IN THE OPTs

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about Coronavirus vaccines for Palestinian people; your comments upon which I have read with interest.

I appreciate your concerns about COVID-19 vaccine access in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). Under international humanitarian law, Israel, as the occupying power, has a duty of safeguarding public health in the OPTs to the fullest extent of the means available; including in relation to combating the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics.

The UK is committed to global equitable access to effective vaccines as demonstrated by our £548 million contribution to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) – the international initiative to support global equitable access to vaccines, from which Palestinians in the OPTs are now benefiting. Indeed, the first shipment of 60,000 vaccines via COVAX arrived in the OPTs on the 17th March, and the second shipment of 72,000 vaccines on the 19th April.

I am assured that the UK remains in close contact with the Palestinian Authority (PA) on their vaccination campaign, and continues to raise the importance of timely and appropriate access to COVID-19 vaccines with the Israeli Authorities, including through our Embassy in Tel Aviv.

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

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE