

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

*Dear Conithent,*

**RE: EDM 1415 – ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF PUBLIC BODIES (OVERSEAS MATTERS) BILL**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of EDM 1415 and the *Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill*. I have read your comments with interest.

First, I should explain that Government Ministers do not, by convention, sign any Early Day Motions, as doing so is likely to breach the *Ministerial Code* rules on collective responsibility. However, I nonetheless wanted to lay out my thoughts on the matters raised.

I completely understand and share your shock about the cycle of violence recently witnessed across the West Bank, in particular in Gaza. I extend my sincere sympathies to those who have lost loved ones.

I believe that there is a difference between legitimate reasons to criticise the Israeli Government and the nature of the Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which for almost 20 years has sought to delegitimise the world's only Jewish state. I am concerned by the rise in antisemitism that we have seen in this country, and I am particularly worried by the pattern of antisemitic behaviour which has been witnessed in connection with campaigns promoting boycotts against Israel, as evidenced in the Supreme Court.

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**