

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

15th October 2023

Dear Constance,

RE: HRH MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN'S VISIT TO THE UK

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of plans for the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia to visit the UK. I have read your comments with interest.

I understand that the Prime Minister and the Crown Prince held a call on the 17th August, and agreed to meet in person at the earliest opportunity.

I appreciate that you have concerns about a potential visit - however, Saudi Arabia is a vital economic and defence partner, investing billions in the UK and helping to ensure the security of the British public. Working with Gulf partners is also more essential than ever following Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, both to increase the diplomatic and economic pressure on President Putin's regime and to minimise the impact of the conflict on the global energy market.

I would like to make clear that no aspect of the UK's relationship with Saudi Arabia prevents us from speaking frankly about human rights. Saudi Arabia remains a Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office human rights priority country, and the UK regularly discusses human rights with the Saudi authorities through a range of diplomatic channels, including Ministers, our Ambassador, and the British Embassy in Riyadh.

Moreover, as I am sure you are aware, the UK firmly opposes the death penalty in all countries and in all circumstances. This is especially the case for juveniles. From the office of the Prime Minister down, the UK regularly raises concerns about the use of the death penalty, including individual cases, with the Saudi authorities at the highest levels, and will continue to do so. The UK also works through multilateral organisations, such as the UN Human Rights Council and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to raise concerns about the use of the death penalty. In addition, the British Embassy in Riyadh closely monitors the cases of all juvenile death penalty defendants and regularly attempts to attend their trials.

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