

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

January 2017

*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about coexistence projects between Israelis and Palestinians.

The UK remains committed to a negotiated two-state solution to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and achieve a sustainable peace. Coexistence projects are important for bringing together Palestinians and Israelis and fostering inter-community understanding. The UK has supported a number of cross-border coexistence projects previously and currently provides £400,000 to support a programme aiming to foster constituencies for peace inside Israel through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund.

I am encouraged that the Secretary of State for International Development is currently looking at options for providing further support to coexistence programmes. DFID's programme in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) works to build Palestinian institutions and promote economic growth, so that any future state will be stable, prosperous, well run and an effective partner for peace with Israel. DFID's direct financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is only used to pay the salaries of education and health public sector workers on a vetted list, thereby delivering basic services, maintaining stability and reducing poverty.

I am pleased that as part of its ongoing review of UK aid to the OPTs, the Government has confirmed that it will continue to provide funding to the PA, but key changes will be made to ensure this funding delivers the best value for money and maximum impact for Palestinians. Maintaining a stable and functioning Palestinian Authority that can deliver basic services is in the mutual interests of Israelis and Palestinians and is a prerequisite to a two state solution.

Once again, many thanks for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**

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