



June 2023

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) and for sharing with me the research by Amnesty International. I appreciate your concern for the issues raised and will ensure Ministers are aware of them.

The UK's position, which I support, is clear and long-standing. There should be a negotiated settlement leading to a safe and secure Israel living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state.

To this end, I know that the UK repeatedly calls on Israel – both bilaterally and via the UN – to abide by its obligations under international law and is in close dialogue with Israel regarding various issues relating to the occupation. The UK continues to urge all parties to de-escalate. [

Indeed, Israel and the OPTs remain a human rights priority for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). Befitting this, Ministers in London and officials in Tel Aviv continue to monitor all issues relating to the occupation and raise concerns with the relevant authorities, and via the appropriate multilateral fora, accordingly.

On the issue of bilateral trade, the UK does not recognise the OPTs and settlements there as part of Israel. Goods from settlements are not covered by the UK-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement and do not receive preferential tariff treatment. While it is ultimately a decision for an individual or company as to whether to operate in the settlements in the OPTs, the UK Government neither encourages nor offers support to individuals or companies who operate in settlements in the OPTs.

Concern for human rights in this region is one that Ministers and I share. Indeed, Israel and the OPTs are a human rights priority for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.



**Chris Heaton-Harris**  
Member of Parliament for Daventry  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 7048

Yours faithfully,

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

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