



November 2023

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the situation in Gaza.

I am aware that EDM 1685 was tabled in a previous parliamentary session and is now unavailable for signature. Further, do please note that Members of the Government / Parliamentary Private Secretaries do not, by convention, sign any Early Day Motions, as doing so is likely to breach the Ministerial Code's rules on collective responsibility, and I have never signed any Early Day Motions in my time in Parliament.

The events we have seen unfolding in Israel are truly horrific. I join the UK Government in utterly condemning the appalling attacks perpetrated by Hamas, standing resolutely with Israel in defending itself against terror and highlighting the need to act in accordance with international humanitarian law.

The UK recognises the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people and supports a lasting solution for Israelis and Palestinians alike. However, Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people or their aspirations; it offers nothing for them other than more terror and more bloodshed. I therefore support Israel's right to go after Hamas, take back the hostages, deter further incursions and strengthen its security for the long term.

The loss of every innocent life is a tragedy, and while acknowledging that Hamas has enmeshed itself amidst the civilian population of Gaza, the UK Government has called on and will continue to call on Israel to take every possible precaution to avoid harming civilians.

The rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza is also deeply troubling. On the 23rd October, the Government announced an additional £20 million of humanitarian aid. This additional funding more than doubles the UK's previous support for the Occupied Palestinian Territories and means that the UK continues to be at the forefront of the global effort to help the Palestinian people access the vital support they need.

I have also been assured that the UK will consider further support depending on changing humanitarian needs on the ground.

However, funding alone is not enough, and I welcome the extensive diplomatic efforts the UK is making to ensure humanitarian support reaches those who need it.

The Prime Minister has raised humanitarian support during his meetings with the leaders of Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the Palestinian Authority, and during the Foreign Secretary's recent visit to the region, he spoke to counterparts in Egypt, Turkey and Qatar to work with them to push for agreement on ongoing humanitarian access to Gaza.



**Chris Heaton-Harris**  
Member of Parliament for Daventry  
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I will be sure to follow this fast-moving situation closely.

Thank you again 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**