



Matt Western MP
Warwick & Leamington

Peter Kyle MP
Secretary of State
Department for Business & Trade

Sent via email.

20th February 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Trade with Israel

I was concerned to read about the Government's possible shift toward easing restrictions on arms export licences to Israel.

Having read your comments during an interview with the Jewish Chronicle last month, I was concerned by your suggestion that the UK Government could revisit paused licences. I understand that you would consider this as part of a wider discussion on UK-Israel trade as we move to the next stages of securing peace in the region.

The UK has already established that there is a clear risk that certain arms exports could be used in ways that breach international humanitarian law. This was something I discussed with your colleagues at the Business and Trade Sub-Committee's oral evidence session on arms exports to Israel in September 2025.

However, to make the link between reopening UK-Israel trade conversation and revisiting arms export licences is deeply worrying. You will be well aware that export controls exist to ensure that the UK does not facilitate or become complicit in serious violations of international law. Constituents of Warwick and Leamington have been deeply concerned by the suggestion that such decisions could be softened for the sake of broader economic agreements.

Since the most recent ceasefire came into effect on 10th October 2025, Israel has killed more than 500 Palestinian people, systematically discriminated against and violently encroached on Palestinians in the West Bank, and severely restricted the delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.

Therefore, I must ask what legal basis the Department for Business and Trade is using to determine any future changes to licence decisions? Additionally, I would ask what direct relation does the Government consider these criteria to have with our broader trading relationship with Israel?

Clearly, the UK must unequivocally uphold its arms export controls. Anything less would represent a weakening of our commitment to the rule of law and undermine confidence in the Government's approach to international humanitarian protection.

Kind regards,

Matt Western
MP for Warwick and Leamington