



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Hamish Falconer MP

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Matt Western MP
House of Commons
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Our ref: MC2026/00023

8 January 2026

Dear Matt,

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 January, about Israel and Palestine.

The immediate priority is to maintain the ceasefire, secure safe and unrestricted access to Gaza for the UN relief teams and other humanitarian organisations, and get aid flooding into Gaza at the pace and volume that is required to match the scale of the current crisis. As the Prime Minister announced on 13 October, the UK will provide £20 million of humanitarian support to provide water and sanitation to those in need, taking the total this year to £78 million.

Over the course of the last two years, almost every person in Gaza has been displaced and lost family members. The scale of loss is staggering, with over 70,000 killed, tragically including over 20,000 children. But we have a duty to the two million people still in Gaza to get them urgent supplies of food, clean water and shelter, to rebuild their homes, and support their long-term recovery. We are clear that under the peace deal we must now see the immediate lifting of all restrictions on life-saving humanitarian aid to Gaza.

On Monday 13 October, the Prime Minister announced a £20 million humanitarian aid package to deliver essential water, sanitation, and hygiene services to tens of thousands of civilians across Gaza. In total, we have committed over £100 million to Palestine this year, including for the provision of life-saving aid into Gaza. UK support so far has meant over 430,000 people have received essential healthcare, more than 647,000 have received food, and 300,000 people have improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene services. Our partnership with UK-Med has facilitated more than 650,000 patient consultations in Gaza.

It is appalling that over 565 aid workers, including three British citizens, have been killed since October 2023. Gaza is the deadliest place in the world for humanitarian workers. Nearly all of Gaza's hospitals are damaged or partly destroyed according to the World Health Organisation, and the UK Government has frequently expressed its outrage at

strikes by Israeli forces on humanitarian personnel, infrastructure, premises, and healthcare facilities. The UK continues to urge the Israeli authorities to ensure these incidents are investigated transparently and to hold those responsible to account. In line with the US-led ceasefire agreement, we continue to urge Israel to provide safe passage for aid workers to allow them to carry out vital work assisting those who have been injured, and supporting those suffering from malnutrition.

Since coming to office, this Government has worked to support all those goals. We restored funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and have provided nearly £250 million in development assistance over the past two years. We signed a landmark agreement with the PA and have committed to support their ambitious reform agenda. We imposed three rounds of sanctions on violent Israeli settlers and members of the Israeli cabinet in their personal capacity, stopped exports to the IDF that might be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of International Humanitarian Law in Gaza, and – as the conflict continued – suspended negotiations with Israel on a new Free Trade Agreement. More recently, we have begun evacuating groups of sick and injured children to the UK. We have also coordinated a series of joint statements with over 30 international partners pushing for urgent action to address the humanitarian crisis.

We will continue to do all that we can to seize this chance for a better future and to secure lasting peace and security in the region, both for the people of Israel and the people of Palestine.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hamish Falconer', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

HAMISH FALCONER MP
Minister for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan