

Matt Western MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

13 July 2026

Dear Matt,

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 June to the Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry, regarding the licensing of dual-use goods for export to Israel, which has been passed to me to reply, as the Minister responsible for export licensing.

The UK operates one of the most robust export control regimes in the world. We assess all military and dual-use licence applications against the UK's Strategic Export Licensing Criteria (SELC).

As you know, in September 2024, DBT suspended licences for equipment for Israel that might be used in military operations in Gaza, based on our assessment that these could be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). We have maintained this suspension and have continued to refuse licence applications on the same basis since then. I would like to be clear that dual use items subject to export controls are covered under the scope of this suspension, and the export of dual-use equipment subject to licence has been refused where it could be used in military operations in Gaza.

I would also add that the suspension, whilst focused on military operations in Gaza, is broad enough that in practice it has resulted in the suspension or refusal of equipment which might be used in other military operations in other areas, such as in recent operations in Lebanon or Iran.

We are seriously concerned by the expansion of Israel's operations in the West Bank. The UK strongly opposes the Israeli government's E1 settlement plans, which would divide a future Palestinian state in two and mark a flagrant breach of international law. The Israeli government must reverse this decision. This Government has also announced sanctions targeting individuals, illegal settler outposts and organisations supporting violence against Palestinian Communities in the West Bank. With regard to Export Controls, we assess all licence applications under Criterion 1 of the SELC, relating to the UK's obligations under international law – and we have been clear that the Israeli settlements in Palestine are illegal. We are also actively considering further measures on trade in goods and services with the illegal settlements.

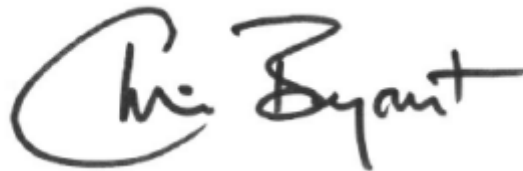
On the specific company you mention, like every UK company JCB is subject to export controls where it exports controlled items. Whether individual goods are subject to controls or not depends on a range of factors, particularly the UK's adherence to international export

control regimes. Items which are not designed for use in military systems, or which do not fall under the scope of UK and international controls for dual-use items, are not necessarily controlled under current legislation.

We strongly advise UK citizens and businesses against conducting any economic and financial activities in illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

I hope you will find this statement of our position reassuring.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Bryant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "Bryant".

Sir Chris Bryant MP
Minister of State for Trade
Department for Business and Trade