



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

**Rt Hon James Cleverly MP**  
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Alicia Kearns MP  
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
House of Commons

31 October 2022

Dear Alicia,

Thank you for your letter of 20 October requesting an update on the FCDO's response to the Evin Prison fire and riots. This was a grave development amidst the ongoing protests in Iran.

Following the news of the fire, my consular officials immediately contacted the families of those dual nationals we know are detained in Evin prison and to whom we are providing consular support to check on the welfare of those individuals and ensure they were not physically harmed. My officials remain in regular contact with these families.

Our Ambassador in Tehran also regularly makes clear to the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs our deep concerns over the welfare of our dual nationals detained in Evin prison. Iran does not grant consular access to individuals with dual British-Iranian nationality. Therefore, we are unable to undertake consular visits or contact them directly, relying on updates from those families who are in direct contact. Nonetheless we treat the conditions of their detention as the highest priority and continue to lobby on welfare concerns and mistreatment allegations when individuals ask us to do so.

Both myself and Lord Ahmad are fully engaged on our consular cases in Iran. We very recently met some family members of one of those detained in Evin prison. We continue to urge the Government of Iran to stop its practice of unfairly detaining British and other foreign nationals, and we continue to work with like-minded partners to that end.

Yours Sincerely,

**Rt Hon James Cleverly MP**  
**Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Secretary**



## Foreign Affairs Committee

From the Chair  
**Alicia Kearns MP**

Rt Hon James Cleverly MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
King Charles Street  
LONDON SW1A 2AH

20 October 2022

Dear James,

Following reports last week of riots and fires at Evin Prison in Iran, I wanted to ask for an update on the situation, with particular reference to the following questions:

1. What steps have been taken to establish whether British citizens (including dual nationals) held in Evin Prison are safe and well?
2. Has there been any attempt in the last week to arrange for the relocation of British citizens at risk?
3. Have families of British citizens held in Evin Prison been contacted by FCDO officials or ministers since 15 October to update them of the situation and to hear any concerns they may have?

I would appreciate your response by 31 October 2022. I would like to place your response in the public domain as it relates to the Committee's inquiry on state hostage taking but appreciate there may be parts of your response that must remain private; if so, please make this clear.

Yours,

**ALICIA KEARNS**