



## Defence Committee

From the Chair

**Rt Hon. Sir Jeremy Quin MP**

**Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP**  
**Chair, Business and Trade Committee**  
**House of Commons**  
**SW1A 0AA**

**By Email only**

23 April 2024

### **UK arms exports to Israel**

Dear Liam,

Thank you for your Committee's invitation to take part in your proposed evidence session on UK arms exports to Israel. We discussed this invitation at our meeting today.

In our view the exercise of the UK's strict export licensing rules is a complex issue which requires substantial deliberation before drawing any conclusions. As you know, we did not support the present arrangements for scrutinising strategic export controls when the Committees on Arms Export Controls was abolished, because in our view the new arrangements needed to provide a broad base of support for decision-making of this nature. As such, while we respect your Committee's decision to hold this session we do not feel it is appropriate to send a representative to participate at this time.

We will of course continue to monitor this issue, and will consider future opportunities for scrutiny that arise.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon. Sir Jeremy Quin MP**