



Department for Business & Trade

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Dear Liam,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Business and Trade Committee of 15 May 2024. Following my letter of 25 April, responding to your letter of 4 April, I want to clarify that I was not seeking to assert that the Judicial Review proceedings were *sub judice* and that for this reason the Government could not comment on those proceedings.

Rather, I wished to reaffirm the Government's longstanding position that it does not comment on ongoing legal proceedings. That position is taken to avoid any potential prejudice arising in the way the Government defends the proceedings; for instance, through discussion of its litigation strategy. However, I can reassure you so far as possible that position will not be used to override Ministerial accountability to the House, and Ministers and officials will engage with the Committee on those Ministerial decisions which are subject to the ongoing legal proceedings.

With reference to the statistics you requested in your letter of 4 April, we already have one of the most transparent export licensing regimes in the world. The Committee will be aware that our next Official Statistics publication is scheduled to be published on 13th June 2024, covering the period from July to 31 December 2023. We take our responsibilities to provide high quality and equally accessible data, under the Code of Practice for Statistics, very seriously.

We would never usually provide advanced, smaller cuts of data in between publications. However, we recognise on this particular topic there is exceptional interest from Members of this Committee, and Parliament and the public more generally, as well as a commitment to provide information to the ongoing Judicial Review. We have considered this very closely and believe that providing an exceptional publication of data is the right thing to do on this occasion.

As set out by Minister Mak during today's Evidence Session, I am pleased to confirm in early June, DBT will separately publish an ad hoc data release, covering extant licences, in-flight applications, and licensing decisions relating to Israel from October 2023 up to the end of May.

My Department looks forward to further engaging with your committee on these issues. As before, I am copying this letter to Alicia Kearns MP in her capacity as Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee given her interest in this matter.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kemi Badenoch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

THE RT HON KEMI BADENOCH MP

Secretary of State for Business and Trade, President of the Board of Trade and
Minister for Women and Equalities