



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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King Charles Street
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Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP
Chair, Business and Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
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22 April 2025

Dear Liam,

Thank you for your further letter of 7 March 2025 about the Government's decision to continue to authorise the export of components to the F-35 programme, where Israel is a potential end-user.

We note the additional detailed points you raise about the interpretation of the ATT. As you are aware, this issue – which is ultimately a question of law - is currently the subject of live litigation. For that reason, we do not have anything further to add to the previous detailed statements we have provided on this matter to you and the Committee. The Government's position and its basis is set out in my letters of 23 December 2024 and 6 February 2025, which followed discussions with Minister Alexander, Lord Coaker and myself at the Business and Trade Select Committee.

Further explanation of the Government's legal position is set out in the detailed grounds which are available from the Administrative Court Office, General Office (administrativecourtoffice.generaloffice@justice.gov.uk).

We will of course carefully consider any relevant findings the court may make on the Government's approach.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Doughty MP
Minister of State for Europe, North America and UK Overseas Territories