

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

03 June 2025

Dear Liam

Thank you for your invitation on 20 May for Ministers to attend an oral evidence session. I would of course be content to appear and suggest your clerks reach out to determine a date.

I appreciate the acute Parliamentary and public interest in this area. As you know, since arriving in the Department I have attached great importance and focus to improving the timeliness of the Export Licensing Official Statistics so that Parliament and other stakeholders all receive transparent and comprehensive data in a regular and reliable fashion. I placed the appropriate and necessary focus on returning such releases to a quarterly and regular rhythm and I am pleased to say this work continues and remains a core priority of the Department. However, whilst our latest quarterly release has a shorter time lag, given the public and Parliamentary interest at the current time I note the points you raise and appreciate the concern. I have therefore instructed officials to commence work on a further ad hoc information release covering export licensing for Israel, in addition to our regular licensing statistics. This will include information on extant licences and ongoing applications for licences relating to Israel. We will endeavour to ensure this is ready for publication in a timely fashion ahead of any evidence session.

In the meanwhile, let me provide a clear assurance on the £127.6 million worth of military export licences issued in 2024 cited in your correspondence, which were covered in our latest quarterly export licensing figures. I can confirm that £120.1 million of that total relates to two licences approved in support of items for onward export to a NATO ally, not for use by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF). This is consistent with the Government's decision as set out in September. I would also like to clarify the point on the values recorded in licences. These values represent the maximum total value of goods permitted for export under each licence, a practical consideration which has long been present with export licensing statistics. In previous correspondence, my intention was simply to note that in some cases the value of items actually exported under each licence may be lower than this maximum permitted figure. I apologise if there was any confusion on this point.

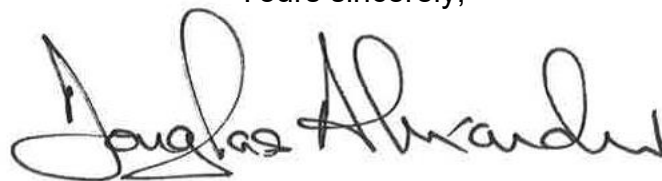
I hope the Government's transparency on licensing data will provide the basis for a useful and informed discussion at the evidence session. I would, however, like to offer assurance that the decision announced by the Secretary of State to Parliament on 2 September 2024 remains fully in force. DBT is not licensing any military equipment that could be used by the IDF in military operations in Gaza, subject to the special measures put in place for the global F-35 programme.

Thank you for acknowledging receipt of the Government's Skeleton Arguments in relation to the *Al-Haq* judicial review case, I hope these have proven helpful to the Committee. As a matter of course, it remains open for members of the Committee to use the Court processes to gain access to relevant documents. However, I have carefully noted the points raised in your letter in relation to the particular circumstances at the moment and extraordinary Parliamentary and public interest and am keen to be helpful to the Committee. Therefore, noting that our evidence session may come ahead of a judgment being reached and published by the Court, I have asked officials to share the Government's Detailed Grounds of Resistance with Committee clerks.

I look forward to meeting with the Committee and answering any further questions, and my officials will look to arrange a convenient date with clerks ahead of the summer recess.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Attorney General, Minister Doughty at the FCDO and Minister Coaker at the MoD.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Douglas Alexander' in a cursive style.

**The Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP**  
Minister of State for Trade Policy and Economic Security  
Department for Business and Trade