



Business and Trade Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister
[by e-mail]

2 July 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

Ministerial Accountability on Arms Exports to Israel

I write to request your assistance in securing the appearance of ministers from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Business and Trade, before this committee to answer questions concerning UK arms exports to Israel.

This is the third time I have had to sight you on this request. While I am grateful that all three departments have agreed in principle to attend, I am concerned that the FCDO has still to identify which of its ministers will appear even though the other departments have nominated ministers. It is a matter of regret to the Committee that a minister from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has yet to be confirmed and that no date has been offered for this important hearing.

As you will know, the recent High Court judgment in the judicial review proceedings placed significant emphasis on the political accountability of ministers to Parliament as a cornerstone of the UK's export licensing regime. I know you will agree that it is therefore vital that this principle is upheld in full by all departments involved.

I hope that, with your assistance and before you next appear at the Liaison Committee, we can secure the name of the Foreign Office Minister to appear and a confirmed date for the session. I am copying this letter to the Attorney General, the Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State for Business and Trade and the Secretary of State for Defence.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of the Business and Trade Committee