



Ministry of Defence

LEO DOCHERTY MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AND MINISTER
FOR DEFENCE PEOPLE AND VETERANS



Dear Tobias,

7 June 2021

Thank you for your letter of the 18th May expressing the Committee's concern about the media reports of the predicament of Iraqi citizens who acted as interpreters for British Armed Forces in Iraq, since 2003. I can provide the following answers in response to the questions raised;

1. The fate of Iraqi's Is the scheme for Locally Engaged Civilians (LECs) in Iraq which was established in 2007 still open?

The Iraqi scheme was opened in 2007 and administered by the then Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The last date for applications from former LECs in Iraq was 19 May 2009 and the scheme relocated over 1320 people

2. If not what plans to you have for providing similar assistance to interpreters and other LECs in Iraq?

The Ministry of Defence has not for some time directly employed local staff on operations instead using a global commercial solution for linguistic support. MOD contracting standards require that people must be as safe and secure as reasonably possible when working in our support. We hold our contractors to these high standards.

3. Is it still the Governments view that the risk to life of former LECs in Iraq is considerably greater than that facing LEC in Afghanistan?

The Ministry of Defence no longer directly employs LECs in Iraq. We also no longer have a large-scale operation in Iraq with only a small headquarters element in Baghdad.

4. Will Iraq LECs be able to self assess the risks they face?

The Ministry of Defence no longer directly employs LEC and as such does not have a scheme.

I hope you find the answers to your questions below helpful.

Leo Docherty MP

Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP
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