



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Mr Simon Hoare MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

15 July 2021

Dear Simon,

COMPENSATION FOR UK VICTIMS OF GADDAFI-SPONSORED IRA ATTACKS

Thank you for your letter of 2 July on compensation for UK victims of Gaddafi-sponsored IRA attacks. As the minister responsible for financial sanctions, I am replying on behalf of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

I welcome your commitment to UK victims of Gaddafi-sponsored IRA terrorism and would like to reiterate the Government's profound sympathy for their pain and suffering, and indeed for all victims of the Troubles.

You raise the question of using the tax collected on the interest and earnings of Libyan assets frozen in the UK to provide compensation for UK victims.

Specific taxes are not generally earmarked to particular types of expenditure. The tax Government collects, including on these assets, is used to fund essential public services such as the NHS.

Regardless, I should reaffirm that providing compensation specifically for the actions of the Gaddafi regime is the responsibility of the Libyan State. It is not therefore for the UK Government to divert UK public funds – including tax receipts – for this particular purpose. Doing so would also not deliver the accountability victims are seeking for the specific role the Gaddafi regime played in the Troubles.

As set out in the Government's Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) of 23 March, we will continue to press the Libyan authorities to address the Libyan State's historic responsibility for the Gaddafi regime's support for the IRA.

Finally, as you know, UK-funded support has already been made available for victims of the Troubles. This includes the (Great Britain) Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and the Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. Bereaved family members can also access bereavement and funeral payments.

Thank you again for the close interest you and colleagues on the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee have taken in this issue. I am copying this letter to the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John P. Glen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "P".

JOHN GLEN