



Foreign &
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Office



Department
for International
Development

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Baroness Anelay of St Johns
Chair, International Relations and Defence Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Baroness Anelay

Thank you for your letter of 9 April on the regrettable delay to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference caused by the impact of COVID-19. We will continue our preparations for the RevCon, when it does take place, and will keep the Committee updated on that work.

Thank you also for highlighting the statement issued by the European Leadership Network on humanitarian trade with Iran.

As you are aware, our position on trade with Iran differs substantially from that of the current US administration. We regret the US decision to withdraw from the JCPOA and do not agree with its 'maximum economic pressure' campaign. With our European partners, we continue to work hard to facilitate legitimate trade with Iran through INSTEX, which last month completed its first transaction.

The impacts of COVID-19 on Iran make it all the more important the Iranian people have access to the humanitarian and medical supplies they need. We are working with our international partners - in particular France and Germany - through INSTEX, and other means, to help ensure they do so. Last month, the E3 committed to providing urgent additional support close to €5 million to fight the COVID-19 epidemic affecting Iran, through the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other UN agencies.

These efforts are recognised in the statement you have highlighted. It remains vital that the Iranian people have access to much-needed humanitarian and medical goods,

which we continue to facilitate both through INSTEX and through additional support to the WHO and other UN agencies in the fight against COVID-19 in Iran.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes that are difficult to decipher as specific letters.

The Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP
Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa