



**Foreign, Commonwealth
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Simon Hoare MP
Chair, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
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24 February 2022

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 2021 about compensation for UK victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism.

I recognise the strength of feeling on this issue and the hard work you and your committee undertake to maintain the focus on this important matter.

Given its complexity and sensitivity, this issue was subject to careful and thorough consideration across Government, including through William Shawcross' internal scoping report. As you are aware, our considered position – including on the use of frozen Libyan assets in the UK – is set out in the Written Ministerial Statement of 23 March 2021.

You will understand the clear practical difficulties in obtaining compensation from Libya, including the conflict, political and economic instability that have prevailed in Libya for most of the last eleven years. The UK is at the forefront of international efforts to support a Libyan-led, UN-facilitated political solution to the conflict. A more stable and secure Libya will be better able to address the legacy of the Qadhafi regime – including Libya's responsibility for compensation for UK victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism.

I would like to reassure you that, in the meantime, the Government continues to press the Libyan authorities – including at the highest levels of the Libyan Government – to address the Libyan State's historic responsibility for the Qadhafi regime's support for the IRA. It is a priority for us in our bi-lateral engagement with the Libyan Government of National Unity – the Prime Minister raised this issue personally with the Libyan Prime Minister, Abdulhamid Dabaiba, during their meeting in London in June last year.

Thank you again for all that you and your colleagues on the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee do to maintain the focus on this important issue.

THE RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP