

Richard Fuller CBE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon David Lammy MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

24th July 2025

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I write to you in my capacity as Member of Parliament for North Bedfordshire to seek your response to three questions that have been raised by me in discussions, in town hall meetings in my constituency and from correspondence with constituents. The focus of these questions is the current circumstances in Gaza and the West Bank following the response by the Israeli government to the horrific and barbaric terrorist attacks by Hamas on October 7th 2023.

Media Access to Gaza

UK media, including the BBC, frequently mention that the government of Israel does not allow them to report freely from Gaza. Freedom of the press is an important principle in our society and limitations on the actions of respectable news organisations should be limited as far as possible.

Can you advise:

- i) Is the assertion by UK news organisations that they face reporting restrictions imposed by the Israeli government, correct? If so:
- ii) What is the nature of these restrictions?
- iii) What is the position of the UK government regarding any restrictions on freedom of access and reporting in Gaza; and
- iv) What representations has/is the UK government making to the government of Israel to lift any restrictions?

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Food Supplies into Gaza

Many constituents have highlighted reports of violence and of the death of civilians in Gaza as they seek to access food supplies. There are also conflicting reports on the levels of supply and the efficacy of the distribution of food and other essential supplies into Gaza.

Can you advise:

- i) What is the position of the UK government regarding the authorisation of agencies to supply food and other essential supplies?
- ii) What representations is the UK government making to improve the quantity of supplies and the security of those providing and accessing those supplies?
- iii) What is the UK government's assessment of reports of famine in Gaza and what actions does the UK government intend to take based on these assessments?

West Bank

On 23rd July the Knesset passed 71-13 a non-binding resolution that called for "*applying Israeli sovereignty to Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley*"; an area that would include, inter alia, the West Bank. On 18th July the UK Foreign Office expressed its strong opposition to the announcement by the central planning bureau of Israel's Civil Administration to reintroduce the E1 settlement plan, citing that this "*plan would build over 3000 houses to the east of Jerusalem, dividing a future Palestinian state in two, and marking a flagrant breach of international law*".

Can you advise:

- i) Based on the FCDO statement of 18th July and following the Knesset vote on 23rd July, what actions - beyond an expression of opposition - the UK government is taking on the matter of settlements or potential annexation by Israel in the West Bank

Hostages

As of today, Hamas continues to hold captive some of the hostages it kidnapped 656 days ago.

Can you advise:

- i) What action is the Government taking to apply pressure on Hamas to release the hostages it continues to hold captive and agree to a ceasefire?

Yours sincerely,

Richard Fuller CBE MP