House of Commons Written Answers

**Israel: Terrorism**

**Philip Hollobone (Conservative)** [193885] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart about the terrorist attack in Tel Aviv on 4 July 2023.

**David Rutley:** During his call on 4 July with the Israeli chargé d'affaires in London, the Minister of State for the Middle East, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon expressed his condolences over the terror attack that took place in Tel Aviv earlier that day. The Foreign Secretary also expressed his condolences about this terror attack when he spoke to Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen on 5 July. We are appalled by terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens. There can be no justification for such acts of violence. Every Israeli and Palestinian has the right to live in peace and security. We understand and share the deep frustration on all sides at the lack of progress on the Middle East Peace Process. Ongoing violence underlines that a just and lasting resolution that ends the occupation and delivers peace for both Israelis and Palestinians is long overdue.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/193885

**West Bank: Security**

**Nicola Richards (Conservative)** [193798] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his Palestinian on security control in Jenin.

**David Rutley:** We continue to closely monitor the security situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). The Foreign Secretary discussed the security situation in Jenin in his call with Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh on 5 July. We unequivocally support the Palestinian Authority's independent role in securing Area A of the West Bank, as agreed in Oslo. The UK continues to support the Palestinian Authority to develop capable, responsible security forces that respect human rights and are accountable to the Palestinian people. We call on the Palestinian Authority and Government of Israel to cooperate in securing the safety and protection of civilians across the OPTs.
Gaza: Food Aid

Feryal Clark (Labour) [193810] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential implication for his policies of a suspension of food assistance to families in Gaza by the World Food Programme; and if he will make a statement.

David Rutley: We continue to monitor the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza. The UK is a key donor to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), providing essential humanitarian support to Palestinian refugees across its five zones of operation. In financial year 2022/2023, the UK provided UNRWA with £18.7 million, including £13 million for UNRWA’s Programme Budget for spend in Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs), Jordan, Lebanon and Syria; as well as £2 million for an employment programme for Gazan women and £3.7 million for food assistance, both under UNRWA’s OPTs Emergency Appeal. The UK is not currently a donor to the World Food Programme in Gaza, but recognises the critical role they play in supporting vulnerable families to have access to sufficient food.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

UK in Jerusalem This week, we signed an agreement with @UNDP [United Nations Development Programme] worth £2.4 million in support of Transparency, Evidence, & Accountability (TEA) in the OPTs [Palestinian flag]. TEA is a multi-year programme aims to improve systems of good governance, accountability, and transparency within the PA institutions.

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3475

Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186

Holocaust Memorial Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3421

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325

Online Safety Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137
Nakba Commemoration Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3461

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188

Same Sex Marriage (Church of England)  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3438

Schools Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill  

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163

Universal Jurisdiction (Extension)  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3454

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill  

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill  

Consultations  ** new or updated today

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill (closing date not specified – no later than 14 September 2023 but may be earlier)  

A Human Rights Bill for Scotland (closing date 5 October 2023)  
The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438