

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Arms Exports to Israel

Thanks to all those who contacted me about arms exports to Israel.

In the past two years, export licences from the UK to Israel have been provided for categories of arms and arms components including sniper and assault rifles, pistols, weapon sights, targeting equipment, ammunition for small arms and grenades, smoke canisters, tanks, combat and military helicopters, military support and combat aircraft and civil riot control protection equipment.

I share the widespread concern of many people about whether UK-supplied weapons or components have been used in the recent appalling killing of protestors in Gaza. When I previously asked Government ministers to investigate the uses to which those arms are being put, the reply I received inexplicably said that the UK “do not collect data on the use of equipment after sale”. If true, this means that UK ministers don’t have the first idea whether UK weapons were used to shoot demonstrators in Gaza.

Criteria two and four of the Government’s own rules in its Consolidated Criteria on arms exports precludes licensing where there is a risk that items must be used for internal repression or in the commission of a serious violation of international humanitarian law. The UK Government must be accountable for the arms export licences it grants. I have therefore tabled an Early Day Motion in Parliament that calls for the suspension of UK arms sales to Israel unless it can be demonstrated that weapons and components imported from the UK are used solely in accordance with its own rules on arms exports. You can read EDM 1305 [here](#).

I have raised the issue of arms exports to Israel with the Government on several occasions in recent weeks, you can catch up on all my contributions in Parliament [here](#).

Thanks again to all those who have contacted me about arms exports to Israel.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

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