

Debate Pack

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Arms export licences for sales to Israel

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1 Summary

A Westminster Hall debate on arms export licences for sales to Israel is scheduled for Tuesday 12 December 2023, from 2:30-4:00pm. The debate will be led by Zarah Sultana MP.

2 Background

The UK has licenced arms worth over £442 million to Israel between May 2015 and August 2022, according to [analysis of Government export data by the Campaign Against Arms Trade](#) (CAAT), a UK based pressure group that seeks an end to the global arms trade.

Some MPs have raised concerns about arms exports to Israel both before and during the current conflict between Israel and Hamas. Ministers have responded to such concerns by referencing the [UK's strategic export licencing system](#), under which all applications for a licence to export weapons and related items are assessed against a set of criteria. These criteria reflect, among other things, the UK's obligations under international law, and the potential for the goods to be used in the violation of human rights (for example, torture).

During [oral questions to the Department of Business and Trade](#) on 30 November 2023, Kemi Badenoch, the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, said:

Since the barbaric terrorist acts by Hamas against Israel on 7 October and the subsequent conflict in the region, the Government have been monitoring the situation very closely. The UK supports Israel's legitimate right to defend itself and take action against terrorism, provided that that is within the bounds of international humanitarian law. Export licences are kept under careful and continual review as standard, and we are able to amend licences or refuse new licence applications if they are inconsistent with the strategic export licensing criteria.

2.1 Overview of UK arms exports system

Any company wanting to export military or dual-use (that could have military or civilian use) goods to other nations must apply for a licence from the Government to do so.

A list of items which require a licence for export is set out in the UK [Strategic Export Control Lists](#) (also known as the consolidated list). This list includes equipment, software and technology.

The [Export Control Joint Unit](#) (ECJU) is responsible for processing licence applications. The unit sits within the Department for Business and Trade, and it draws together expertise from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Ministry of Defence. The Secretary of State for Business and Trade is responsible for arms export controls.

The ECJU assesses licence applications against the [Strategic Export Licencing Criteria](#). These reflect, among other things, the UK's obligations under international law, and the potential for the goods to be used in the violation of human rights (such as torture). For example, a [licence will not be granted](#) if:

- There is a clear risk that the items might be used to “commit or facilitate” internal repression or a serious violation of international humanitarian law (Criteria 2a and 2c).
- There is a clear risk that the items would, overall, undermine internal peace and security (Criterion 3) or regional/international peace and security (Criterion 4).
- The items could be used to commit or facilitate an offence under international conventions or protocols to which the United Kingdom is party relating to terrorism or transnational organised crime (Criterion 6a).

Existing licences will be revoked if they are “[found to be no longer consistent with the Criteria](#).”

More detail and the full list of criteria can be found in Commons Library research briefing [UK amends its criteria for arms exports](#) (CBP 9494).

2.2 UK arms exports to Israel

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) collates data on export licences published by the Government. [According to CAAT analysis of Government export licence data](#), the UK licenced over £442 million worth of arms to Israel between May 2015 and August 2022. This included:

- £183 million worth of ML22 licences (military technology)
- £117 million worth of ML10 licences (aircraft, helicopters, drones)
- £22 million worth of ML4 licences (grenades, bombs, missiles, countermeasures)
- £4.6 million worth of ML6 licences (armoured vehicles, tanks)

The amounts given above [do not indicate the actual value of exports shipped](#), only the value of goods that licence holders are allowed to export. Commons Library briefing [UK arms exports: statistics](#) explains what data on arms exports is available and what it tells us.

On 20 November 2023, the Secretary of State for Defence, Grant Shapps, said that UK [“defence exports to Israel are relatively small—just £42 million last year”](#).

In relation to the current Israel-Hamas conflict, [CAAT has highlighted UK industry contributions to F-35 combat aircraft](#), which CAAT says are “currently being used in the bombardment of Gaza.” CAAT, alongside the [NGO Saferword](#), are among the groups [calling for the revocation of all licences for arms exports to Israel](#).

2.3 MPs concerns and Government response

There have been long-standing concerns among some MPs regarding arms exports to Israel.

For example, [Early Day Motion 1305](#), signed by 73 MPs in 2018, cited a risk that UK arms to Israel might “be used for internal repression or in the commission of a serious violation of international humanitarian law” and may “affect adversely regional stability”.

[Government responses](#) to oral and written questions, such as the one given to Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) in September 2022, often refer to the criteria used when assessing licence applications:

The UK Government takes its defence export responsibilities extremely seriously and operates some of the most robust export controls in the world. All applications for export licences are assessed on a case-by-case basis against strict criteria. We will not issue a licence if there is a clear risk that the equipment might be used for internal repression. The UK Government continues to monitor closely the situation in Israel and the OPTs [Occupied Palestinian Territories] and if extant licences are found to be no longer consistent with the criteria, those licences will be revoked.

Pre-2023 Israel-Hamas conflict

In 2014 the Coalition Government reviewed export licences granted to Israel following the outbreak of [hostilities between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups](#) in Gaza.

The [Government said the review](#) found the vast majority of exported currently licensed for Israel are “not for items that could be used by Israeli forces in operations in Gaza in response to attacks by Hamas.” However, the government said that it had identified 12 export licences for components

which could be part of equipment used by the Israeli Defence Forces in Gaza. The Government noted a ceasefire was in place, but added “in the event of a resumption of significant hostilities, the government is concerned that it would not be able to clarify if the export licence criteria are being met. It would therefore suspend these licences as a precautionary step.”¹

[Government did suspend twelve licences](#) for components which could be part of equipment used by the Israeli Defence Forces in Gaza.

In a report published in October 2022, the [Committees on Arms Exports called on the Government](#) to provide a detailed breakdown of licences granted for exports to Israel, including any end-use conditions. A breakdown of licences issued, refused, rejected and revoked between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2022 was [published in the Government’s response](#).

The [Government also said it would consider the Committees’ suggestion](#) of including Israel as a case study in the 2022 strategic export controls annual report. Upon publication, the [annual report contained only Belarus and China](#) (PDF) as case studies.

Current Israel-Hamas conflict

On 7 October 2023, the Palestinian group Hamas, officially designated a terrorist group by many countries including Israel, the United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom, [commenced an armed assault against Israel](#). In response, Israel’s military forces launched air strikes and a ground assault in Gaza.

Members have asked the Government to consider revoking arms export licences to Israel. [Steve Bonnar \(SNP\) raised this with the Secretary of State for Business and Trade](#), Kemi Badenoch, in oral questions on 30 November.

Kemi Badenoch said the UK “supports Israel’s legitimate right to defend itself and take action against terrorism, provided that that is within the bounds of international humanitarian law.” She added licences are kept under review and can be amended if they are inconsistent with the strategic export licensing criteria.

¹ This paragraph was corrected on 5 March 2024 to clarify the Government identified 12 licences that it would suspend in the event of a resumption of significant hostilities, rather than it had suspended the licences.

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Press and media articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

[UK government faces legal challenge over arms exports to Israel](#)

The Guardian
Geneva Abdul
6 December 2023

[License to Kill: The Israel-Gaza Conflict and the UK's Arms Exports Regime](#)

Just Security
Udit Mahalingam
5 December 2023

[UK, US and EU must halt arms sales to Israel or risk complicity in potential war crimes](#)

Saferworld
5 December 2023

[Arms sales to Israel land UK government in court](#)

Euronews
Joshua Askew
5 December 2023

[Shapps: UK defence exports to Israel 'relatively small'](#)

Jewish News
20 November 2023

[Trading in trauma: do United Kingdom arms exports to Israel violate the Arms Trade Treaty and other arms control regulations?](#)

Action on Armed Violence
Charles Schultz
8 November 2023

[The weaponry the UK has sold to Israel, including parts for F-35 jets used to bomb Gaza](#)

iNews
Cahal Milmo, Taz Ali
31 October 2023

[Palestinian NGO tells UK to stop arms sales to Israel](#)

Reuters

18 October 2023

[UK has 'no plans' to stop arms sales to Israel despite civilian deaths](#)

Open Democracy

18 October 2023

[Statement on UK arms exports to Israel](#)

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)

17 October 2023

[CAAT calls for UK to end arms sales and military support for Israeli forces following Gaza killings](#)

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)

9 August 2022

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PQs

Topical Questions

30 Nov 2023 | 741 cc1055-1114

Asked by: Joanna Cherry

Could I revisit my earlier question to the Secretary of State about arms export licences to Israel? I and many others do not agree with her secrecy approach, and I and many others believe that Members of Parliament are entitled to this information, so I will try another approach. Could she detail the classification and description of the goods, the stated end use and the licence type, including direct transfers and those via third countries, and could she place that information in the Library for Members of Parliament?

Answered by: Kemi Badenoch | Department for Business and Trade

I believe there is a quarterly register that may contain some of the information the hon. and learned Member is asking for, but I am not able or going to list every single export decision that has been made by the export control joint unit. I will see what I can do to get her a fuller answer, but she will know that this is a very sensitive issue. I have a quasi-judicial role, and I must be seen to be impartial at all times. I will do what I can to provide the information she wants, but I do not have a list to provide her with this morning, and certainly not on the Floor of the House.

Arms Export Licences: Israel

30 Nov 2023 | 741 cc1049-1050

Asked by: Joanna Cherry

13. Whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of revoking arms export licences to Israel. (900381)

Answering member: Kemi Badenoch | Department for Business and Trade

Since the barbaric terrorist acts by Hamas against Israel on 7 October and the subsequent conflict in the region, the Government have been monitoring the situation very closely. The UK supports Israel's legitimate right to defend itself and take action against terrorism, provided that that is within the bounds of international humanitarian law. Export licences are kept under careful and continual review as standard, and we are able to amend licences or refuse new licence applications if they are inconsistent with the strategic export licensing criteria.

Asked by: Joanna Cherry

No one is suggesting that Israel does not have the right to defend itself—but, as the Secretary of State says and we agree, within the bounds of

international law. The mass killing of civilians in Gaza should concern us all. Without resorting to platitudes about the relative toughness of the UK's arms export controls, could she please identify which arms export licences are currently in force, including open licences for end use by the Israeli defence and security forces, and provide details of them to the House?

Answering member: Kemi Badenoch

I do not believe that is something that I am able to do or should do. I can tell the hon. and learned Lady that last year we granted 114 standard individual export licences for military goods valued at Toggle showing location ofColumn 1050£42 million to Israel. If there is a specific issue that she would like to highlight, we are prepared to look at it, but she will know that security and defence exports are not necessarily best discussed on the Floor of the House or in public, for obvious reasons.

Asked by: Steven Bonnar

A state that supplies military equipment that is used in the commission of violations of international humanitarian law is at risk of complicity in a humanitarian catastrophe. In continuing with those licences and supplying UK arms to Israel, what assessment does the Secretary of State make of the potential for UK Government complicity, if Israel is found to have committed war crimes in Gaza by the ongoing International Criminal Court investigation?

Answering member: Kemi Badenoch

I am quite surprised that there is not a word of condemnation, and the implication that the UK is complicit is really not the sort of thing we would expect from a British Member of Parliament in this House. I completely disagree with the premise of the hon. Gentleman's question. The Government take our defence export responsibilities extremely seriously and operate some of the most robust and transparent export controls in the world.

[Arms Export Licences: Israel](#)

30 Nov 2023 | 741 cc1049-1050

Asked by: Joanna Cherry

Whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of revoking arms export licenses to Israel.

Answered by: Kemi Badenoch | Department for Business and Trade

Since the barbaric terrorist acts by Hamas against Israel on 7 October and the subsequent conflict in the region, the Government have been monitoring the situation very closely. The UK supports Israel's legitimate right to defend itself and take action against terrorism, provided that that is within the bounds of international humanitarian law. Export licences are kept under careful and continual review as standard, and we are able to amend licences or refuse

new licence applications if they are inconsistent with the strategic export licensing criteria.

Israel: Military Aid

29 Nov 2023 | 3678

Asked by: Kenny MacAskill

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department has undertaken an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment for providing (a) assistance and (b) arms to Israel since 7 October 2023.

Answering member: James Heappey | Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessments (OSJAs) which provide the basis for internal MOD decision making processes on a range of defence engagement activity with Israel. These have been updated since the 7 October 2023.

As for undertaking an international humanitarian law assessment for providing arms to Israel, this is the responsibility of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, which in turn advises the Department for Business and Trade. Therefore, the MOD does not undertake its own OSJA for the supply of arms to Israel, but any relevant information held by the MOD is shared across His Majesty's Government (HMG) to be considered as part of HMG's overall export licensing process.

Israel and Occupied Territories: Weapons

29 Nov 2023 | 2956

Asked by: Dan Carden

To ask the Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, if the UK Government will launch an investigation to determine whether British-made weapons have been used in acts that breach human rights in (a) Israel and (b) the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and if he will suspend arms sales to the region while such an investigation takes place.

Answering member: David Rutley | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Government takes its defence export responsibilities extremely seriously and operates some of the most robust export controls in the world. All applications for export licences are assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Strategic Export Licensing Criteria. All licences are kept under careful and continual review as standard and we are able to suspend, refuse or revoke licences as circumstances required. We can and do respond quickly and flexibly to changing international circumstances. The Government continues to monitor closely the situation in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank.

Israel: Palestinians

29 Nov 2023 | 2952

Asked by: Dan Carden

To ask the Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, with reference to the statement by the UN entitled Gaza: UN experts call on international community to prevent genocide against the Palestinian people, published on 16 November 2023, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of implementing an arms embargo on all warring parties.

Answering member: David Rutley | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Government takes its defence export responsibilities extremely seriously and operates some of the most robust export controls in the world. All licences are kept under careful and continual review as standard and we are able to amend, suspend or revoke extant licences, or refuse new licence applications, as circumstances require. We have been doing what we can to prevent regional escalation and have reiterated our support for Israel's right to self-defence and the importance of adherence to international humanitarian law. In the long term, to prevent further conflict and terrorism, there must be a political solution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict: a two-state solution which provides justice and security for both Israelis and Palestinians. To make that vision a reality, we are also urging all sides to de-escalate tension in the West Bank and tackle all forms of extremism. It is vital that the Government of Israel does all it can to reduce the violence in the West Bank. We will oppose any attempts by malign actors to cause further escalation in the region.

Arms Trade: Israel

22 Nov 2023 | 306

Asked by: Rachael Maskell

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether UK manufactured arms have been sold to Israel in the last (a) 10 years, (b) five years and (c) one year.

Answering member: Greg Hands | Department for Business and Trade

HM Government publishes Official Statistics on export licences granted, refused, and revoked to all destinations: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-export-controls-licensing-data>. Currently this includes information up to 31st March 2023. A licence being granted does not mean that an export takes place. Some licences may expire unused, and others may expire after only partial use. Some licences may also be revoked or suspended.

Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

14 Nov 2023 | 740 c523

Asked by: Zarah Sultana

The Minister's call for Israel to follow international law in Gaza rings utterly hollow when we know that that is not happening. The United Nations Secretary-General, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and others have been clear that Israel is clearly and grossly violating international humanitarian law. Since 2015, this Government have licensed more than £472 million of arms exports to Israel, including parts of F-35 stealth aircraft, which are currently raining down bombs on Gaza. Does the Minister know whether British weapons have been used in violations of international law in Gaza, and does he agree that we should not sell weapons for committing war crimes?

Answering member: Andrew Mitchell | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The hon. Member will know that the President of Israel, President Herzog, has made it clear that his country will abide by international humanitarian law. [Interruption.] She will also know that, in respect of arms exports in this country, we have the toughest arms regulations anywhere in the world.

Israel: Arms Trade

26 Oct 2023 | 203627

Asked by: Claudia Webbe

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if the Government will cease the licensing of the export of (a) arms and (b) security equipment to Israel.

Answering member: James Cartlidge | Ministry of Defence

All applications for export licences are assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Strategic Export Licensing Criteria.

The Government continues to monitor closely the situation in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, and if extant licences are found to be no longer consistent with the Criteria, those licences will be revoked.

Israel: Palestinian Civilian Casualties

10 May 2023 | 829 c1820

Asked by: Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

I thank the Minister for his Answer. Can he assure me that no items covered by British arms export licences are being used in the infliction of those deaths and injuries, either by the Israeli military or Israeli civilians? I realise that this is very recent, but I draw particular attention to the early hours of 9 May, when 13 Palestinians were killed in airstrikes, including four children, four

women and Dr Jamal Khaswan, a well-known dentist and chair of Al-Wafa Hospital.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, I know, from being directly involved in our relations with both Israel and the Palestinians, the importance of negotiating what one hopes will be a lasting dialogue which will lead to a lasting and secure peace. Loss of any life, particularly those of children, is extremely distressing for all concerned. Irrespective of whether it is an Israeli life or a Palestinian life, it is one life too many. On the issue of arms exports, as the noble Baroness knows, the United Kingdom Government take their defence export responsibilities extremely seriously and operate some of the most robust export controls. We continue to monitor the situation between Gaza and the West Bank and Israel very closely. We are diligent and keep regular sight of all aspects of that dispute and conflict. I assure the noble Baroness of my best intent and good offices. When there is any loss of life on either side, I think I speak for all Members of your Lordships' House in saying that we would all rather it had not happened but, equally, one hopes that it will inspire all nobly intended people to work towards a resolution of this conflict, which has gone on for far too long.

Israel: Defence Equipment and Arms Trade

30 Jan 2023 | 128724

Asked by: Claire Hanna

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make it his policy to ban the (a) sale of arms to and (b) import of military technology from Israel.

Answering member: David Rutley | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK takes its defence export responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. We consider all our export applications thoroughly against a strict risk assessment framework and keep all licences under careful and continual review as standard. We continue to monitor the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories closely and keep relevant licences under review. We will not grant an export licence if to do so would be inconsistent with the Strategic Export Licensing Criteria. The UK also does not believe that imposing a blanket arms embargo would lead to progress in the peace process.

Trade Agreements: Israel

27 Sep 2022 | 53574

Asked by: Anum Qaisar

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether the intended contents of the UK-Israel Free Trade Agreement include provisions for arms trade.

Answering member: James Duddridge | Department for International Trade

No. Defence matters are outside the scope of all UK Free Trade Agreements (FTA).

The Government takes its arms export responsibilities very seriously and aims to operate one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. An FTA with Israel will not impact on export controls in relation to arms exports.

Arms Trade: Israel

24 May 2022 | 2453

Asked by: Caroline Lucas

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if she will make it her policy to impose an embargo on the export and import of all arms and military equipment to and from Israel; and if she will make a statement.

Answering member: Amanda Milling | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK Government takes its export control responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. We consider all export applications thoroughly against a strict risk assessment framework. Her Majesty's Government will not grant an export licence if to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

Arms Trade: Israel

18 May 2022 | 992

Asked by: Beth Winter

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, if she will publish the value of all arms export licenses to Israel in each year since 2010.

Answering member: Ranil Jayawardena | Department for International Trade

HM Government publishes Official Statistics (on a quarterly and annual basis) for export licences granted, refused and revoked to all destinations on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and these reports contain detailed information, including the overall value, the type (e.g. Military, Other), and a summary of the items covered by these licences. The data for 2021 was published on 12th April 2022.

The Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, was superseded by Strategic Export Licensing Criteria, announced in the Written Statement of 8th December 2021, [HCWS449](#).

[Israel: Arms Trade](#)
30 Jul 2021 | HL2152

Asked by: Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister for Middle East and North Africa on 15 June (UIN900776), what assessment they have made of whether British arms exported to Israel have been used in assaults on Palestinian (1) people, and (2) property, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and what assessment they have made of the implications of any such use for the UK's export control responsibilities.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

HM Government takes its export control responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. We consider all export applications thoroughly against a strict risk assessment framework and keep all licences under careful and continual review as standard. HM Government will not grant an export licence if to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. If extant licences are found to be no longer consistent with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, those licences will be revoked. HM Government publishes quarterly and annual statistics on all export licensing decisions, including details of export licences granted, refused and revoked. These can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/strategic-export-controls-licensing-data>.

[Israel: Arms Trade](#)
21 Jul 2021 | 32279

Asked by: Stephen Timms

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his Department has made of the accuracy of reports that Israeli (a) F-16 fighter jets and (b)

Apache helicopters carrying out airstrikes on Gaza contain British-supplied components; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: James Heapey | Ministry of Defence

HM Government takes its export control responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. We consider all export applications thoroughly against a strict risk assessment framework and keep all licences under careful and continual review as standard. HM Government will not grant an export licence if to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. HM Government publishes quarterly and annual statistics on all our export licensing decisions, including details of export licences granted, refused and revoked. These can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/export-control-organisation>.

Arms Trade: Israel

24 May 2021 | 4043

Asked by: Kenny MacAskill

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what assessment she has made of the similarities between (a) active export licences for Israel and (b) the twelve licences that the Department for Business identified as being for components which could be part of equipment used by the Israel Defence Forces in Gaza on 12 August 2014.

Answering member: Ranil Jayawardena | Department for International Trade

On 12th August 2014, HM Government said it was concerned that, in the event of a resumption of significant hostilities, it would not be able to clarify if the export licence criteria were being met and, accordingly, would suspend the twelve licences identified.

Today, HM Government is satisfied that we are able to assess extant licences and new applications against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria ('the Consolidated Criteria').

We continue to monitor the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories closely and keep relevant licences under review. We will take action to suspend, refuse or revoke licences – in line with the Consolidated Criteria – if circumstances require.

HM Government will not grant an export licence if to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria.

Arms Trade: Israel

24 May 2021 | 4042

Asked by: Kenny MacAskill

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, if she will publish details of the (a) companies and (b) components associated with the twelve licences that her Department identified as being of potential use to the Israel Defence Forces in Gaza on 12 August 2014.

Answering member: Mr Ranil Jayawardena | Department for International Trade

In these cases, the names of companies are commercially sensitive and will not be disclosed.

HM Government takes its export responsibilities seriously and will continue to assess all export licences in accordance with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria (the ‘Consolidated Criteria’). HM Government will not grant an export licence if to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria.

We continue to monitor the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories closely, and keep relevant licences under review. We will take action to suspend, refuse or revoke licences – in line with the Consolidated Criteria – if circumstances require.

The items on the relevant twelve licences were:

Components for military aero-engines	One licence
Components for targeting equipment	Three licences
Components for military radars	Three licences
Technology for military aero-engines and technology for naval engines	One licence
Components for combat aircraft	Two licences
Components for tanks	One licence
Launching/handling/control equipment for munitions	One licence

HM Government publishes Official Statistics (on a quarterly and annual basis) on export licences granted, refused and revoked to all destinations on GOV.UK containing detailed information including the overall value, type (e.g. Military, Other) and a summary of the items covered by these licences.

Arms Trade: Israel

20 May 2021 | 2479

Asked by: Claire Hanna

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what risk assessment measures are used in the Government's ongoing monitoring of arms exports to Israel.

Answering member: Ranil Jayawardena | Department for International Trade

HM Government publishes Official Statistics (on a quarterly and annual basis) on export licences granted, refused and revoked to all destinations on GOV.UK containing detailed information including the overall value, type (e.g. Military, Other) and a summary of the items covered by these licences. This information is available at: [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and the most recent publication was on 13th April 2021, covering the period 1st October – 31st December 2020. Information covering 1st January – 31st March 2021 will be published on 13th July 2021.

HM Government continues to monitor closely the situation in Israel. We have procedures in place to review licences – and suspend or revoke as necessary – when circumstances require.

HM Government takes its export responsibilities seriously and will continue to assess all export licences in accordance with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria (the 'Consolidated Criteria'). HM Government will not grant an export licence if to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria.

5

Early Day Motions

Israel Arms Trade (Prohibition) Bill

EDM 300 (session 2021-22)

8 July 2021

Richard Burgon

This House notes that the UK Government has authorised hundreds of millions of pounds worth of arms sales to Israel between 2016 and 2020; believes that the UK Government should end these arms sales as part of efforts to end Israel's militarized repression of Palestinians, violations of international law and the illegal occupation of Palestine; and therefore welcomes the presentation of the Israel Arms Trade (Prohibition) Bill laid on 7 July 2021 that seeks to stop the UK Government from authorising arms sales to Israel.

Arms export licences for sales to the Israeli Military

EDM 138 (session 2021-22)

27 May 2021

Lloyd Russell-Moyle

That this House notes with concern the recent granting of and use of extant UK licences for the export to the Israeli military of categories of arms and arms components including military technology and components for aircrafts, helicopters, and drones, as well as grenades, bombs, missiles, armoured vehicles, tanks, ammunition, and small arms; is therefore concerned that Ministers have not disclosed whether UK-made exports were used in the recent bombardment of the Gaza Strip and repression of civilian protests in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory; reminds the Government that criteria 2, 3 and 4, of the consolidated criteria on arms exports precludes licensing where there is a clear risk that items may be used for internal repression or in the commission of serious violations of international humanitarian law; notes the criteria precludes licensing for items which would provoke or prolong armed conflicts or aggravate existing conflicts, and precludes licensing for items when there is a clear risk that they could be used to assert by force a territorial claim; therefore calls for an investigation to determine whether UK-made arms and components have been used in the recent violence and if they are implicated in war crimes under investigation by the International Criminal Court, including settlement building in occupied territories; and calls for a suspension of UK arms sales to Israel until it can be demonstrated, subject to parliamentary scrutiny, that weapons and components imported from the UK are used solely in accordance with the consolidated criteria.

6

Further reading

Commons Library research briefings

[UK amends its criteria for arms exports](#)

CBP-9494

30 November 2023

[UK arms exports: statistics](#)

CBP-8310

16 January 2023

Committee reports

[Developments in UK Strategic Export Controls](#) (PDF)

House of Commons Committees on Arms Export Controls

First Joint Report of Session 2022–23

HC 282, 28 October 2022

UK Government response to the above paper

[Response of the Secretaries of State for International Trade, Defence, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs](#) (PDF)

CP 775, January 2023

Note: [Annex 1](#) of this paper lists all Israel licencing decisions from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022, including rejections/refusals and revocations.

Parliamentary e-petition

[Condemn Israel for their actions against Palestinians and impose trade ban](#)

(Petition closed 6 October 2023 with 20,236 signatures)

UK Government publications

[Trade and Investment Factsheet: Israel](#) (PDF)

Department for Business and Trade

17 November 2023

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