



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

October 2018

Dear Constituent,

A Response to the Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia Campaign

I share your distress regarding the plight of the Yemeni people, but I do not believe that imposing a blanket arms embargo would resolve the situation.

The Government takes its defence export responsibilities extremely seriously and operates one of the most robust export control regimes in the world. All export licence applications, including those for Saudi Arabia are rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

These strict criteria take account of all prevailing circumstances at the time of application and includes human rights and international humanitarian law considerations. The Government does not issue export licences where there is a clear risk that the goods might be used for internal repression, in the commission of a serious violation of international humanitarian law, or where the export would provoke or prolong conflict.

I am confident that by adhering to the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, the Government will continue to ensure that UK arms exports to Saudi Arabia are not used for internal repression, violating international humanitarian law, or for provoking or prolonging conflict.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alister Jack'.

Alister Jack DL MP
Dumfries and Galloway constituency.