



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

September 2019.

Dear Constituent,

**A Response to the Iranian Oil Tanker Seizure Campaign**

Thank you for contacting me about Iran.

Tensions between Iran and the US are rising in relation to Iran's nuclear policy and its intentions in the Middle East. The UK shares US, European and Gulf partners' concerns about Iran's destabilising activities in the region. The threat that Iran poses is concerning, not only for regional stability, but because of its implications for our security and that of our allies. At the same time, the UK Government remains committed to working with Iran to reduce the current tensions and to the Iranian nuclear deal as the best means of preventing a nuclear-armed Iran.

The UK has reaffirmed its commitment to freedom of navigation and safe passage through the Gulf by playing a leading role in a new international maritime security mission. The mission will see the Royal Navy working alongside the US navy to assure the security of merchant vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. This new coordinated effort will bolster the work the UK has already been undertaking to this end, including through HMS Duncan and HMS Montrose accompanying UK-flagged ships.

The Government of Gibraltar has received assurances from Iran that the Grace 1 will not proceed to Syria. Iran must abide by the assurances they have provided. The UK will not stand by and allow Iran to bypass vital EU sanctions on a regime that has deployed chemical weapons against its own people. There is no comparison or linkage between Iran's unacceptable and illegal seizure of, and attacks on, commercial shipping vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and the enforcement of EU Syria sanctions by the Government of Gibraltar.

Yours sincerely,

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

**The Rt. Hon. Alister Jack MP**  
**Dumfries and Galloway constituency.**