



Craig Whittaker MP

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UK Arms Exports

Thank you for contacting me about arms exports.

I am reassured that the Government takes seriously its legal obligations as regards the licensing of arms for export. The UK has one of the most rigorous licensing regimes in the world.

Each application is considered on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking into account the precise nature of the equipment and the identity and track record of the recipient. The Government has consistently said it does not, and will not, issue licences where it judges that the proposed export would provoke or prolong internal conflicts, or where there is a clear risk it might be used to facilitate internal repression or be used aggressively against another country. I have always fully supported this stance.

Specifically on the tragic case of the civil war in Yemen, Saudi Arabia has publicly stated that it is investigating reports of alleged violations of international humanitarian law. This is an important process and the UK is fully behind thorough investigations into all allegations of violations of international law. Finding a political solution to the conflict in Yemen is the best way to bring long-term stability so peace talks are a top priority.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP