Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP
Secretary of State
Department for International Trade

10 May 2018

Dear Liam,

I write concerning recent media coverage ("UK sells $445m of arms to Israel, including sniper rifles", Middle East Eye, 24 April 2018), in the wake of last month’s events on the Israel-Gaza border, which referred to the granting of licences for the export of sniper rifles, and sniper-rifle components, to Israel.

It appears from the Strategic Export Controls database that just one licence has been granted relating to the export of goods of this type to Israel. This is a Standard Individual Export Licence, dated 6 January 2017, covering items which include (under rating ML1) four sniper rifles, as well as components for sniper rifles, valued at £18,624. I would like to receive in respect of this particular licence any information you have on the intended end-use of the goods concerned.

I would also appreciate confirmation as to whether any other licences have been granted in respect of the export of such equipment to Israel. In the event that such further licences do exist, I would like to receive the same information as in respect of the licence mentioned above.

I plan to publish this letter and your response on the Committees’ website.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Graham Jones
Chair of the Committees on Arms Export Controls