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Dr Andrew Murrison MP  
Chair, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee  
Committee Office  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

*Dr Andrew*

Thank you for your letter of 19 April about my recent visit to Libya and support for victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism.

I travelled to Tripoli on 7-8 April and held a number of meetings with my Libyan counterparts. I raised the issue of support for victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism in my meetings with the Libyan Ministers of Justice and Foreign Affairs. We discussed in some detail: I emphasised that, whilst victims of some Qadhafi-sponsored terrorist atrocities (such as the Lockerbie bombing) have received compensation, victims of other attacks, including Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorist attacks, have not received any compensation from the Libyan authorities. I underlined the strength of feeling among victims and their families, and urged the Libyan Government to demonstrate that they are taking these cases seriously. Specifically, I invited the Minister of Justice to the UK for meetings with victims and their representatives.

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The Libyan Ministers expressed sympathy for the victims and their families. However, they also spoke of the urgent political, security and economic challenges Libya is facing and made clear that – against this context – now was a particularly difficult time to discuss legacy cases and the issue of compensation. I reiterated the importance the UK Government attaches to resolving these cases, but I should be honest that I believe progress with the Libyan Government will continue to be difficult and slow.

I have subsequently followed up with a letter to the Ministers of Justice and Foreign Affairs, setting out once again that this is a priority for the UK Government and proposing a meeting between Libyan representatives and victims' groups. The

Government will continue to raise this matter at the highest level with the Libyan authorities.

Once again, I express my sincere condolences to all who have suffered as a result of the horrific attacks by the IRA. I assure you that the Government will continue to take this issue extremely seriously.

*Yours ever*  
*Alistair*

**THE RT HON. ALISTAIR BURT MP**  
**Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa**

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