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Dr Andrew Murrison MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

*Re Andrew,*

Thank you for your letter of 5 October on behalf of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, regarding the Government's response to your report on HMG support for victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism.

First of all I reiterate my deepest sympathies to the victims of IRA terror and their families, whose suffering was exacerbated by the Qadhafi regime's supply of weapons to the IRA. The Government wishes to see a just solution for all victims, and I can reassure you that we take this issue extremely seriously.

The Foreign Secretary continues to make it clear to the Libyan authorities that this issue is a priority for the UK, and has raised it during every conversation he has had with Prime Minister Serraj. Most recently, the Foreign Secretary discussed the issue of compensation with Prime Minister Serraj and Foreign Minister Siala during his visits to Tripoli in May and August of this year.

On both occasions, the Libyan Prime Minister expressed his sympathies for UK victims who had suffered as a result of Qadhafi's actions, but set out that until there is greater stability in Libya, they are not in a position to consider what Libya might do to support. My officials are in conversation with the Libyan Ministry of Justice to continue dialogue on this issue with the Libyan authorities at all levels.

As you may be aware, I met with a delegation of victims' groups on 9 October to listen to their concerns and to discuss their campaign with them in person following our response to the Committee's report. Similarly, the Foreign Secretary met with a delegation of Parliamentarians who follow this issue closely on 11 October.

While the Foreign Secretary reiterated the UK's longstanding position not to espouse the claims of victims, he did emphasise that the UK would be more visibly proactive

on this file in the future, and I shall follow up with my Libyan counterparts next time I speak to them.

In addition, a number of specific questions were raised during these meetings; we have both committed to write to attendees with further advice in the coming weeks. I will of course also be happy to provide an update to the Committee on progress within the next year.

*Yours ever*

*A. Burt*

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

*And thank you for your continued  
commitment to this.*

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