



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development

24 December 2018

Andrew Murrison MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Andrew,

During my evidence session with the Committee on 20th November, and in addition to my letter of 11 December, I undertook to provide further information on Government Departments' discussions on this set of issues. In addition, I agreed to give a sense of when HMG might be able to provide details of some of the options being discussed.

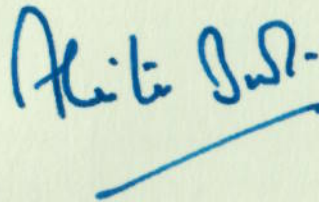
A meeting of cross-Whitehall officials was held on 21st August 2018 in order to discuss the issue of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism. At that meeting were representatives of Cabinet Office, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Home Office and Northern Ireland Office (NIO). There have been some follow-up meetings since.

You will be aware of the meeting between the Foreign Secretary and a group of MPs from the Victims of Libyan Sponsored IRA Terrorism APPG on Monday 17th December. During that meeting, the Foreign Secretary undertook to ask officials to explore terms of reference for the appointment of a suitable independent British figure to evaluate the precise amount of compensation that should be paid by the Libyans.

We would not envisage such a person acting on behalf of HMG in negotiations with the Libyan Government, since HMG is not proposing to espouse the claims of the victims directly. Nevertheless, his or her work and conclusions would no doubt be of value to the victims, and could usefully inform HMG's approach and discussions with the Libyan Government. The Foreign Secretary has agreed to discuss these proposals at a further meeting with the APPG and other interested colleagues in the New Year.

Your letter of 19 December reiterated your reservations about HMG's policy position on non-espousal, and questioned how individual victims can be expected to pursue legal remedies given the current situation in Libya. Despite the numerous political and security challenges facing Libya, there is an internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA). HMG continues to raise with the GNA the issue of Libyan-sponsored IRA terrorism and to press the Libyan authorities to engage with victims and their representatives.

Let me once again reaffirm my strong desire to help find a just settlement for all victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism, and deep sympathy for those affected.



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