



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

**The Rt Hon the Lord Cameron of
Chipping Norton**
Secretary of State for Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development Affairs

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Professor Philip Banfield - BMA Chair of Council
& Dr Latifa Patel – BMA Representative
Body Chair and Equality Lead
British Medical Association
BMA House

Our ref: MC2024/00954

23 February 2024

Dear Philip,

Thank you for your letter of 12th January.

Palestinian civilians are indeed facing a devastating and growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The UK Government wants to see an end to the fighting in Gaza as soon as possible, which is why we are calling for an immediate pause to get aid in and hostages out, then progress towards a sustainable, permanent ceasefire, without a return to destruction, fighting and loss of life.

Five vital steps are required for a sustainable peace: the release of all hostages; the formation of a new Palestinian Government for the West Bank and Gaza, accompanied by an international support package; removing Hamas's capacity to launch attacks against Israel; Hamas no longer being in charge of Gaza; and a political horizon which provides a credible and irreversible pathway towards a two-state solution.

There must be a reduction in civilian casualties and all parties must act within International Humanitarian Law. We want to see Israel take greater care to limit its operations to military targets and avoid harming civilians and destroying homes. I underlined the need for Israel to ensure effective deconfliction in Gaza, and to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of medical personnel and facilities, during my visit to Israel on 24th January.

Israel must also take immediate steps, working with other partners including the UN and Egypt, to significantly increase the flow of aid into Gaza. This includes allowing prolonged humanitarian pauses, opening more routes into Gaza and restoring and sustaining water, fuel and electricity.

We have trebled our aid commitment this financial year and are doing everything we can to get more aid in and open more crossings.

Given the inter-relation of water, sanitation, health and nutrition, the UK has prioritised support to these sectors through our trusted multilateral partners. This includes support for water treatment and wastewater treatment services; emergency medical teams and supplies; health sector coordination; and for monitoring and treating child malnutrition. We have deployed an experienced field epidemiologist to the region to help strengthen surveillance for infectious diseases. In addition, air and maritime shipments from the UK have included, among other things, wound care packs and thermal blankets.

I have reiterated to Prime Minister Netanyahu the need for Israel to open more crossing points into Gaza, for Nitzana and Kerem Shalom to be open for longer, and for Israel to support the UN to distribute aid effectively across the whole of Gaza.

My Representative for Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Mark Bryson-Richardson, is also working intensively to address the blockages preventing more aid reaching Gaza.

Thank you again for taking the time to write on this important matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Cameron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.