

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Thank you for your letter of 27 July to the Prime Minister enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED], on behalf of the Berwick and District Group of Amnesty International, about [REDACTED]. The Prime Minister has asked me to reply.

[REDACTED] mentioned an article which appeared in the Sunday Times edition of 16 July, which alleged that the government of Qatar intends to purchase [REDACTED] of defence equipment from two UK companies [REDACTED] and then gift the equipment to the [REDACTED]

We are aware of the Sunday Times reports and have already opened a dialogue with the Qatari authorities. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] All applications are considered strictly on a case by case basis in accordance with the EU Code of Conduct and our national criteria. These involve a number of considerations, including human rights - as Ms Palmer says. Section 4(b) of the national criteria states that:

"The Government... will not issue an export licence if there is a clearly identifiable risk that the proposed export might be used for internal repression."

[REDACTED] is right to raise concerns about [REDACTED] human

rights record. The UK Government have urged [REDACTED] on numerous occasions to investigate all allegations of human rights violations and to co-operate fully with UN Special Rapporteurs. My colleague Peter Hain visited [REDACTED] of this year, and human rights formed an important element of his visit. He met several key human rights activists and raised UK and international concerns about [REDACTED] in his meetings with senior government figures. With UK support, the EU has also submitted details of individual human rights cases to the [REDACTED] government.

[REDACTED]