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1 JUL 2016

Thank you for your letter of 6 June about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs).

The Government is a strong supporter of international justice and is committed to upholding the Geneva Conventions. It is Her Majesty's Government's longstanding position that Israel has legal obligations as an Occupying Power with respect to the OPTs under applicable international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. We have a regular dialogue with the Government of Israel with regard to the implementation of those obligations and raise our serious concerns regarding such issues of human rights in the OPTs.

We have raised with the Israeli authorities our longstanding concerns about their treatment of Palestinian detainees, including children, and that the UK considers Israel's detention of Palestinian prisoners within Israel to be contrary to Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and we have clearly stated this position to Israeli officials.

Yours sincerely,

TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State