



Department  
for International  
Development



Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Secretary of State

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House of Commons  
London, SW1A 0AA

15 September 2016

*Ian*

Thank you for your letter of 6 September regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Palestinian Authority (PA).

In your letter you ask what arrangements govern current DFID aid to the PA. The UK's most recent phase of financial aid to the PA ended in March 2016. As you note, DFID's original MoU was extended until March 2016, covering that programme until its conclusion.

As I am new to my role, I am conducting a full examination of our work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs), including the future of our support to the PA. As part of this examination, I am also looking at options for people-to-people programmes to identify how we can best provide further support in this important space. I will update you in due course.

The UK deplores incitement on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and takes the issue of incitement extremely seriously. When incidents of incitement do occur, we do not hesitate to raise and condemn these. The UK also raises the issue of incitement as part of the FCO-led UK-Palestinian strategic dialogue meetings and in the DFID-PA dialogue meetings that review the broader DFID-PA MoU, setting out a clear message that we take very seriously any reports of UK taxpayers' money being used to promote anti-Semitism or incitement to violence. HMG's assessment is that the PA is not in breach of the MoU and the track record of President Abbas and Prime Minister Hamdallah demonstrates their overall commitment to non-violence and a negotiated two-state solution.

The last formal assessment of the PA's commitment to the Partnership Principles was carried out in May 2016, including the PA's commitment to respecting human rights. Our assessment is that the PA continues to deliver on the Partnership Principles, even under increasingly fragile and volatile conditions. The PA's commitment to respecting human rights has also been raised in the two most recent UK-Palestinian strategic dialogue meetings.

The list of vetted civil servants is held by the European Union. DFID has seen this list and has access to it on request. The list of eligible beneficiaries is subject to a vetting process that includes screening against international and ad hoc sanctions lists, covering a large number of different risk categories including terrorism financing. The verification process is conducted in very close collaboration with independent international audit companies.

I would be pleased to meet with you and other colleagues to discuss these issues. Please contact my diary secretary at [SoSDiary@dfid.gsx.gov.uk](mailto:SoSDiary@dfid.gsx.gov.uk) to arrange a time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Priti Patel". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Secretary of State