



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
Minister of State

Rt Hon Joan Ryan MP & Ian Austin MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: 182299
Your ref: JR11382

16 May 2018

Dear Joan and Ian,

Thank you for your letter of 19 April to the Prime Minister regarding DFID's funding to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the PA's curriculum. I am responding on behalf of the Prime Minister, as the joint DFID and FCO Minister of State with responsibility for the issue raised.

I trust you have received my previous letter of 16 April which addressed the UK's position on aid to the PA. As I set out there, DFID's financial assistance to the PA is an essential part of the Government's efforts to support the conditions for a viable two-state solution. The UK is helping to develop the institutions of a future Palestinian state to ensure it can effectively deliver services for Palestinian people and act as a partner for peace with Israel.

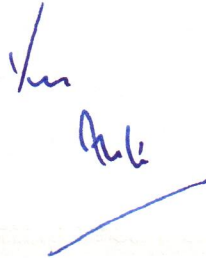
As part of our efforts to encourage peace, our Government continues to urge the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to avoid engaging in, or encouraging, action and language that make it more difficult to achieve a culture of peaceful coexistence and a negotiated solution to the conflict. Let me reassure you that our dialogue with the PA is robust and direct in that regard, and we make clear our strong condemnation of racist, hateful and anti-Semitic language and any comments that could stir up hatred and prejudice.

Like you, I was concerned at some of the findings of the IMPACT-SE report, and my officials have met with IMPACT-SE to investigate their report further. As explained in my responses to your Parliamentary Questions, we have also brought forward a planned assessment of the Palestinian curriculum, which will involve a rigorous and independent review of the pilot PA textbooks. This will take several months to conclude and the outcome of the review will be communicated in due course. The Palestinian leadership are forthcoming in their engagement with this review.

The review will inform UK policy making and dialogue with the PA in line with our partnership principles. We will discuss any findings of the review directly with the PA Minister for Education and Higher Education as part of our work with the Ministry to support a high quality education for Palestinians including through the curriculum. We will take any action as we judge necessary once the review is completed.

I hope that you will agree with me that it is important for the UK Government to conduct its own objective and evidence-based assessment of PA textbooks and that the findings of such an assessment should not be pre-judged.

Please rest assured that the UK remains committed to supporting a viable two-state solution and that all our efforts are carefully executed to support this important objective.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Burt', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

ALISTAIR BURT