



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles St
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Dear Foreign Secretary

I am writing to you concerning the Government's strategy for dealing with Iran's ballistic missile programme, the largest and potentially most diverse in the Middle East.

As you know, in October, the provisions of UN Security Council 2231 which prohibit Iranian ballistic missile tests and the transfer of related technology are scheduled to lapse, while, under the JCPOA's implementation timeline, the EU and UK are due to remove their various sanctions related to Tehran's missile regime.

These two developments pose a very real risk that the Iranian regime and its missile arsenal will receive a massive boost.

It is an open secret that Iran has been violating both the spirit and the intent of the restrictions the international community has imposed on its missile programme and was doing so even before Donald Trump's reckless decision to unilaterally withdraw from the nuclear deal in 2018. Tehran has conducted banned tests, proliferated missiles to its proxy armies across the Middle East, procured banned technology from North Korea, and has been transferring drones to Russia for Putin's war in Ukraine.

According to expert analysis, the lifting of British and EU sanctions will include measures against "a broad swathe of Iranian defence firms supportive of the regime's ballistic missile programme".

Given its egregious and consistent breaches of both the nuclear accord and UNSCR 2231, it would be outrageous were the Iranian government, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp's Aerospace Force, and various front companies and subsidiaries tied to the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics to be rewarded in this manner.

The lapsing of British and EU sanctions will provide a huge fillip to Iran's missile programme which menaces the peace and security of our allies in the Middle East, in particular the State of Israel.

It will also drive a dangerous wedge between our sanctions regime and that of the United States – a wedge that Tehran is sure to exploit. It will underwrite the Iranian missile programme at the very moment Tehran is expanding its usage against Ukraine. And it will reward the Iranian government while it is engaged in a heightened and systematic campaign of repression and violence against the people of Iran.



In this context, I would appreciate it if you could clarify some important points regarding the Government's strategy towards Iran:

1. Does the Government plan to allow sanctions on organisations such as the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps's Aerospace Force and various front companies and subsidiaries tied to the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics to lapse in October?
2. What coordination is the Government conducting with our European allies to forge a joint position concerning the October sanctions expiration deadline?
3. What plans does the Department for Business and Trade have to restore the "Iran List" identifying entities, companies and organisations in Iran to help UK traders judge how exports might be misused?
4. What plans does the Government have to close any existing or future gaps between the UK, United States and European sanctions regimes towards Iran?

Yours sincerely

Steve McCabe MP, LFI chair