

August 2019

Dear Constituent

Thank you for contacting me about the UK's relationship with Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia remains a human rights priority country for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, particularly because of the use of the death penalty, women's rights and restrictions on freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of religion or belief. It is right that the UK Government raises its concerns with the Saudi Arabian authorities using a range of Ministerial and diplomatic channels of communication, including its Ambassador and the Embassy team in Riyadh.

Following the Court of Appeal judgement in a Judicial Review into the UK Government's decision-making process for granting export licences to Saudi Arabia, new licences will not be issued to Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners for the sale of arms destined for use in the conflict in Yemen. I understand the UK Government is currently considering the implications of the Judicial Review. The judgement is not about whether the UK Government has made the right decisions in granting export licences but concerns the rationality of the process used to reach those decisions.

I can assure you that I will continue to follow developments very closely, and engage with Ministers.

Yours sincerely



Richard Benyon