



THE RT. HON. SIR STEPHEN TIMMS MP

**House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA**

**Tel: 020 7219 4000
Fax: 020 7219 2949**

Labour Member of Parliament for East Ham

The Rt Hon Lord David Cameron
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Our Ref: ST120539

23 April 2024

Dear David,

A number of constituents have contacted me today after reading reports that Israel has yet to provide evidence to support its claims that employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) were members of terrorist organisations.

An independent review, led by the former French foreign minister Catherine Colonna, found that UNRWA had regularly supplied Israel with lists of its employees for vetting. It noted that the Israeli government had not informed UNRWA of any concerns relating to any of the organisation's staff since 2011.

You will recall that allegations of the involvement of UNWRA staff in the 7 October attacks led to many donors – including the UK government – to withdraw funding to the agency. This has proved problematic for many Palestinians in Gaza as it was the main channel of humanitarian support in the region.

Ministers had said they would wait for the Colonna report to make a decision on resuming funding. Given its findings, will the UK now resume its funding of UNWRA? I note the UN chief spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric, has encouraged this saying “...*the secretary general appeals to all stakeholders to actively support UNWRA, as it is a lifeline for Palestine refugees in the region.*”

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,

SIR STEPHEN TIMMS MP

Cc: Constituents