



Ministry of Defence

HARRIETT BALDWIN MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AND MINISTER
FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5, ZONE B, MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

4/8/1/1/ap

20th February 2017

Dear Alison:

During the Urgent Question on 26 January, you asked whether evidence of violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by the Saudi-led Coalition in Yemen would be passed by the UK Government to *“any inquiry, preferably an independent, UN-led commission of inquiry”* (Official Report, column 450).

As Minister Ellwood explained during the debate, the Government is not opposing calls for an international independent investigation. The extent to which the Government would be able to share information with such an investigation would depend on how it is constituted. Some of the information the Government receives relating to alleged violations is shared in confidence and is not ours to pass on to third parties; equally our own information sometimes comes from classified sources that we are unable to share as a result.

First and foremost, we want to see the Coalition investigate allegations of breaches of IHL which are attributed to them; and for investigations to be thorough and conclusive. The Coalition Joint Incident Assessment Team (JIAT) is investigating reports of alleged violations of IHL, and the Coalition has stated that any lessons learned will be acted upon.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

HARRIETT BALDWIN MP

Alison McGovern MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA