



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Lord Collins of Highbury
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Foreign, Commonwealth and
Development Affairs

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Email:
fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

Baroness Helic
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

27 September 2024

Dear Baroness Helic

Thank you for your intervention during the House of Lords QSD on Children and Armed Conflict on 12 September. I am replying to your question about HMG's policy on transferring Gazan children to the UK for specialist medical treatment.

The plight of sick and injured children in Gaza is deeply distressing. We continue to call on Israel to urgently establish sustained, organised, safe and timely passage for critically ill patients out of Gaza via all possible routes.

Our policy is to follow WHO best practice as it is preferable to treat patients as close to home as possible, and we assess that countries in the region have the capacity and expertise to provide the specialist care that is required for these complex cases. The UK is supporting countries in the region to provide this care. Those seeking to come to the UK for private medical treatment, along with their family members, can apply for a Visitor Visa. We are not currently looking to build on this with a bespoke scheme for medical evacuations from Gaza.

I will place a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Yours ever,

Lord Collins of Highbury
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and
Development Affairs