



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

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The Rt Hon Dame Priti Patel  
House of Commons  
London  
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13 December 2024

Dear Dame Priti Patel,

Thank you for your varied parliamentary contributions since taking up your new post as Shadow Foreign Secretary, including during Committee Stage of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and International Committee of the Red Cross (Status) Bill on 13 November. At that time, you asked the Minister of State for Europe, North America and Overseas Territories about the future funding pathway for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). I am replying in my capacity as the Minister of State for International Development.

The ICRC is a critical humanitarian partner for the UK, working globally to uphold and promote acceptance of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and humanitarian norms. Its impartiality, neutrality and independence allow it to engage and negotiate with all parties to a conflict and to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations, often in contexts where other agencies are unable to operate.

For many years the UK Government has funded the ICRC through provision of core unrestricted funding on a multi-year basis, as well as annual bilateral contributions to particular emergency contexts. In 2023, total FCDO support to ICRC was £133m, including £52m core unrestricted funding. In 2024, the UK is on track to provide over £165m to ICRC, of which £48m is unrestricted. With the current Spending Review still underway, the total amount of funding to ICRC for 2025 and beyond is not yet confirmed. Our intention is to continue structuring future funding within a new multi-year Business Case to help give ICRC the predictability of income it needs to plan ahead for its critical IHL and protection programming activities around the world.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the Shadow Cabinet for your continued support for this Bill, and I look forward to seeing it passing into law. I am copying this letter to all other Committee members and will place a copy in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon. Anneliese Dodds MP**  
**Minister of State for International Development**

