

FAO: Sarah Waller
Government Legal Department

BY EMAIL ONLY

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Your Ref: **Z1601555/SAW/DS4**

Our Ref: REC/EAK/00065492/10

Date: 19 June 2020

Dear Sirs

**Re: Campaign Against Arms Trade
Licences for the Sale or Transfer of Arms or Military Equipment to the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

As you know, the Court of Appeal Order requiring your client to reconsider the existing licences, which continues to allow arms and military equipment to be exported to Saudi Arabia, is dated 20 June 2019.

Your client committed to the Court of Appeal, through submissions and a signed witness statement (Edward Bell) *"...to reviewing and amending the decision-making process as a matter of priority ... the decision-making process is complex and the current assessment is that it is likely to be up to several months before the Secretary of State is in a position to retake his decisions."*

For one year, as of today, our client has been writing to you seeking confirmation of the Secretary of State's new decision as well as seeking copies of the new guidance and policy documents which we assume your client has drafted in light of the Court of Appeal judgment.

To date, we have received holding letters (dated 27 November 2019 and 6 February 2020), reassuring us that *"significant work"* has been undertaken, that the retaking process is *"at a considerably more advanced stage"* but no decision nor documents have been sent.

The Court of Appeal found your client to have assessed *"clear risk"* irrationally, and therefore unlawfully. To date that position has not been remedied, yet arms and military equipment continue to be exported to Yemen, without a lawful assessment having been concluded, pursuant to extant licences.

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We can see no reasonable explanation for this ongoing delay. Your client sought evidence regarding the ongoing breaches of IHL by the Saudi coalition in Yemen in the Summer and Autumn of last year. Its analysis must now be completed. Nine months have now passed and many more lives have been tragically lost in Yemen. We ask that you provide us with the information and documents sought without further delay and certainly by no later than **1 July 2020**.

If you cannot provide us with a response by then, please explain exactly what work has been done, and the next steps required along with details of the expedited timetable with which you intend to undertake them. Please note we reserve the right to disclose copies of these letters to the Supreme Court in due course, if required.

Kind regards.

Yours faithfully


Leigh Day