



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

March 2019

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about returning foreign terrorist fighters.

I want to reassure you that the UK is wholly committed to combatting any threat posed by returning terrorist fighters, who have travelled from this country to countries like Syria and Iraq to fight for IS.

I understand that where appropriate the Government will use nationality and immigration powers to deprive individuals of their British citizenship and to exclude foreign nationals from the UK whose presence here would not be conducive to the public good.

UK nationals do have the right to return to this country, however, everyone who returns from taking part in the conflict in Syria or Iraq must expect to be investigated by the police to determine if they have committed criminal offences and to ensure that they do not pose a threat to our national security.

There have already been several successful prosecutions related to travel to Syria. This includes a custodial sentence of ten years for a British national found guilty in December 2017 of membership of IS, possessing an AK47 gun and receiving £2,000 for terrorism. The minimum of 40 years for Khalid Ali who was sentenced at the beginning of the year for planning a terrorist attack in Westminster reflects how seriously this country takes the terrorist threat.

In addition to seeking prosecution of terrorism suspects, the Home Office uses a range of tools to manage the threat posed by returners. This includes imposing travel restrictions for individuals subject to Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures and using Temporary Exclusion Orders to place in-country conditions upon their return, including regular reporting to a police station.



Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY