



November 2023

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the recent protests over the Israel and Hamas conflict.

The Home Secretary has written to Chief Constables across the UK providing advice and support for communities following the attack on Israel. This includes increased visibility of patrols, as well as a swift and zero tolerance approach to antisemitism to provide reassurance to Jewish communities that the police are taking this threat seriously and will be there to protect them if need be.

The Home Secretary has asked police forces to be alert and ready to respond to any potential offences regarding the displays of Hamas logos and flags, which is a proscribed organisation in the UK. Further, the Home Office is encouraging all Chief Officers to ensure that any protests which could exacerbate community tensions by way of offensive placards, chants, or behaviours that could be construed as incitement or harassment, have a strong police presence to ensure perpetrators are appropriately dealt with, and that communities feel protected.

I can assure you that the Government is clear that there is no place for antisemitism or the glorification of terrorism on the streets of Britain. Therefore, the Home Secretary expects the police to use the full force of the law against displays of support for Hamas, other proscribed terrorist groups or attempts to harass and intimidate British Jews.

The Government has ensured that the police have the tools, powers and guidance necessary to police these protests appropriately. The Prime Minister has spoken of his gratitude to the police over the recent protests on Whitehall where over 20 arrests were made. The police are currently reviewing footage of some of the things they have seen after the fact, and where necessary will make further arrests.

I am aware that a man has been arrested following a video circulating on social media where the person appears to condemn the number of Palestinian flags on Bethnal Green Road. The Metropolitan Police has issued a statement where they have confirmed the arrest of a man on suspicion of a racially aggravated Section 5 Public Order offence. I will continue to monitor this issue closely as the issue progresses.

I echo the words of the Prime Minister that to plan protests on Armistice Day is provocative and disrespectful, and there is a clear and present risk that the Cenotaph

and other war memorials could be desecrated. This would be an affront to the British public, and the values that this country stands for. We must protect the right to remember all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. I understand that the Prime Minister has asked the Home



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Secretary to support the Metropolitan Police in doing everything necessary to protect the sanctity of Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

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**