



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/05160/24

[REDACTED – Section 40]

Embassy of Israel

[Redacted – Section 40]

22 May 2024

Dear Ambassador,

I am writing in response to your kind letter regarding my recent appointment as First Minister. I also look forward to strengthening the relationship between our two countries.

The Welsh Government utterly condemns any antisemitism in Wales. Hate has no place in Wales and we want to ensure all Jewish and Israeli community members feel welcome and safe in our communities. Since the atrocities on 7 October, the continuing detention of hostages, and the conflict in Gaza, we have sought to built interfaith dialogue via our Faith Communities Forum. The British Board of Deputies and the Muslim Council of Wales have worked constructively with us to support all community members and try to prevent both antisemitism and islamophobia.

Like so many around the world, we profoundly hope a ceasefire deal can be found urgently, enabling hostages to be released, for desperately-needed aid to enter Gaza, and tensions in communities to de-escalate. In our view, there can be no security for anyone in Israel and Palestine without a long-term peace, which is fair to both Israelis and Palestinians.

In recent weeks, I had a case raised with me about **[REDACTED – SECTION 40]** who is still being held captive in Gaza. I have been reassured by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office that **[REDACTED – SECTION 40]** Wales-based family are receiving support during this very difficult time. However, I wanted to restate a commitment I made to our Welsh Parliament that I would be happy to investigate other cases if details of affected Welsh families could be shared. I continue to offer our deepest sympathy to all those caught up in the conflict and all those impacted by it.

We fund the Wales Hate Support Service in Wales to offer bespoke support to anyone who is victim of a hate incident. We offer this service without bias to all victims, including Jewish and Muslim community members. I am aware that many Jewish community members would feel more comfortable reporting their experiences to the Community Security Trust due to

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

their long-standing support, so our service works closely with CST to monitor trends. I would be keen for you to use any levers open to you to ensure Jewish and Israeli community members living in Wales have confidence to come forward to access the support available.

We remain focused on ensuring victims receive support, preventing hate by ensuring perpetrators know there will be consequences for their offences, and seeking to build community cohesion.

Yours sincerely,

VAUGHAN GETHING