

The UK's longstanding position on the Middle East Peace Process is clear: we support a two state solution as the best way to bring about stability and peace to the region. It is vital that the civilian Palestinian population is protected but we are also clear that Israel has a right to defend itself from indiscriminate attacks.

Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are illegal under international law and present an obstacle to peace and take us away from a two-state solution. We have urged the Israeli government to reverse recent announcements on further proposed settlement.

We will continue to provide humanitarian support in the region and funding to the Palestinian Authority, and I am proud that the UK will support the payment of salaries, of teachers, doctors and nurses to enable young Palestinians to get an education and access to health care.