



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Hamish Falconer MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office)
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
King Charles Street
London
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19th December 2025

Dear Minister Falconer,

Agriculture has long been central to livelihoods and food security in Gaza. Yet widespread destruction of farmland, irrigation systems, and storage facilities has devastated production. Restrictions on seed imports, the lack of locally produced fertilisers and pesticides, and soil degradation have deepened reliance on food aid. The Israeli Government's blockade of aid into the region has led to widespread famine and malnutrition, with children, older people and those with pre-existing health conditions the most affected.

The UK Government should help establish humanitarian corridors for agricultural inputs - including seeds, fertilisers, and machinery - and strengthen local food systems to reduce dependency and restore dignity. Soil contamination and the loss of resilient seed varieties also require urgent assessment and restoration to safeguard future harvests and resilience.

Agriculture has always been a key source of income and employment across Palestine, with people frequently working into older age alongside their families. Older farmers who have lived through recurrent conflict, hold the traditional knowledge to recover the local food systems for their communities. But access to cultivable land remains limited, with mines, rubble, and destroyed infrastructure preventing safe farming. The UK should facilitate debris clearance and land rehabilitation, provide basic tools and seeds to smallholder farmers, and promote shared-resource farming models that enable collective recovery and market access.

Following the UK's recognition of a Palestinian state, restoring land access and sovereignty is vital. Many farmers cannot reclaim or cultivate land that has been destroyed, contaminated, or deliberately targeted and without access to the right equipment. The UK should support land clearance and safe certification, implement soil regeneration and replanting programmes, and advocate for farmers' land rights as part of a recovery that leaves no one behind.

Agricultural relief must intentionally include all marginalised groups – older people, children, women, and people with disabilities - who are essential to rebuilding Gaza's agricultural foundation and ensuring a sustainable, dignified future.

This letter was written alongside Age International, and we hope that you will be able to meet with us to discuss this further. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Witherden MP

Diane Abbott MP
Shockat Adam MP
Bell Ribeiro Addy MP
Baroness Alexander of Clevedon
Tahir Ali MP
Josh Babarinde MP
Paula Barker MP
Lorraine Beavers MP
Apsana Begum MP
Sian Berry MP
Olivia Blake MP
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Richard Burgon MP
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Jeremy Corbyn MP
Steve Darling MP
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Tim Farron MP
Andrew George MP
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Peter Lamb MP
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Chris Law MP
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