



# Department for International Trade

Department for International Trade

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3 August 2020

Dear Councilor Asker,

Thank you for your letter dated 27 July 2020 addressed to the Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP, Secretary of State for International Trade, regarding Immediate Suspension of the Export Licence for Small Arms to the USA. I have been asked to provide a response on behalf of the Secretary of State as this matter falls within my brief.

First, I should make clear that I certainly condemn the killing of George Floyd, though I have been sorry to see the violence that has taken place across the Atlantic – and here at home – in the aftermath of his death.

I can assure you that the United Kingdom takes its export control responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust and transparent export control regimes in the world. We rigorously examine each export licence application on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

The Consolidated Criteria provide a thorough risk assessment framework and require us to think hard about the impact of providing equipment and its capabilities. These are not decisions we take lightly, and I can assure you that we will not licence the export of items where to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria.

We publish information of all export licences issued, refused, and revoked on a quarterly and annual basis as official statistics on GOV.UK – the most recent publication was in April, on licences issued until the end of December 2019.

I hope this letter is helpful to you and council members.

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Ashcroft  
**Correspondence Manager**  
Department for International Trade