



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Antisemitism: Internet**

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [120114] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking with stakeholders to help take anti-Semitic conspiracy theories (a) on social media and (b) elsewhere online.

**Paul Scully:** The Online Safety Bill will apply to all companies that allow users to post content online or to interact with each other, as well as search services.

All companies in scope of the Bill will have duties to proactively tackle priority illegal content, including illegal anti-semitic content, and will need to prevent their services from being used to facilitate or commission these offences. They will also be required to swiftly remove other illegal content where there is a victim and it is flagged to them. In addition, Category 1 Service, which will include the largest social media companies, will need to ensure they properly enforce their terms of service, and provide adult users with tools to help them avoid content that is abusive or incites hatred on the basis of religion.

This means that the Bill will offer adult users a 'triple shield' of protection against anti-semitic content. Firstly, regulated services will need to take robust action against such content where it meets a criminal threshold. Secondly, Category 1 services will be required to take down anti-semitic content that is in breach of their own terms of service, and third, they must provide adults with greater controls over content they may not wish to see, reducing the risk that they encounter anti-semitic content.

Finally, the Online Safety Bill will require all services which are likely to be accessed by children to provide safety measures for child users. Those safety measures will need to protect children from inappropriate and harmful content and activity, including anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-10/120114>

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## House of Commons Written Answers

### **Elbit Systems UK: Exports**

**John McDonnell (Labour)** [122411] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether her Department holds information on whether any equipment that has been exported by Elbit to Israel has been re-exported by (a) Elbit Israel and (b) subsidiaries of Elbit Israel as (i) whole military systems or (ii) components in Elbit Israel's military exports to (A) countries which are Human Rights Priority countries for the Government (B) countries which are in conflict with other states and (C) countries to which the direct export of that equipment from the UK would constitute a violation of (I) the UN's Arms Embargo list or (II) the UK's Strategic Exporting Licence Criteria.

**Nigel Huddleston:** Exporters are required to advise His Majesty's Government of the ultimate end user of their goods, to the extent that is known at the time of their application. The government's assessment and decision will take into account the end user and ultimate end user. We will not issue a licence where to do so would be inconsistent with the Strategic Export Licensing Criteria, including where it would breach sanctions or where exports could contribute to or undermine regional peace and security. Information about export licences is published quarterly as official statistics on Gov.uk. My Department only holds comprehensive information about exports from the UK which are subject to controls and have an export licence. We do not hold detailed or specific information about all exports from the UK. We do not hold any information on exports from Israel.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-13/122411>

*The Criteria referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-12-08/hcws449>

*The statistics referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/strategic-export-controls-licensing-statistics-quarterly-reports>

### **Elbit Systems UK: Exports**

**John McDonnell (Labour)** [122412] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether her Department holds any information about assurances provided to the Government by the government of Israel that equipment exported to Israel from the UK by Elbit has not been re-exported to other countries.

**Nigel Huddleston:** Export licence applications are supported by an end user undertaking that sets out the specific purposes for which the goods are to be used by the end user, including if applicable, where the goods are being incorporated and or re-exported. This includes an undertaking not to re-export goods for weapons of mass destruction purposes where to do so would breach UK international obligations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-13/122412>

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## **Relevant Legislation** \*\* new or updated today

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Bill of Rights Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

#### **Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186>

#### **Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>

#### **Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325>

#### **Online Safety Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

#### **Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217>

#### **Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188>

#### **Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163>

#### **Schools Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156>

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

#### **\*\* Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

Letter from the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government to the Secretary of State for Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/gender-recognition-letter-to-the-secretary-of-state-for-scotland/>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated today

**\*\* closes in 5 days**

**NUS UK Antisemitism Action Plan** (closing date 27 January 2023)

[https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471793/NUS\\_Antisemitism\\_Action\\_Plan\\_Jan2023.pdf](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471793/NUS_Antisemitism_Action_Plan_Jan2023.pdf)

**\*\* Equality and Human Rights Commission Statutory Review** (closing date 1 March 2023)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-statutory-review>

**Draft guidance: charities use of social media** (closing date 14 March 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-guidance-charities-use-of-social-media>

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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438