

1) Given that Israel has continued to expand settlements on occupied Palestinian land in the West Bank and East Jerusalem in defiance of international law and international opinion, do you think the UK should ban the import of settlement goods into the UK?

Yes / No / Don't Know

Yes. While it is not party policy to support a ban on the import of settler goods, personally I would support such a ban. The party does however support guidelines which enable customerse to identify whether goods came from the Occupied Territories so that they can decide for themselves whether to buy them.

2) Do you agree that Israel's blockade of Gaza imposed since 2007 should be lifted immediately?

Yes / No / Don't Know

Yes

3) Do you agree that the government should enforce its own arms export licensing criteria and stop supplying arms to Israel until it ceases its violations of international law?

Yes / No / Don't Know

Don't Know. Broadly speaking, I think we should uphold rules and standards equally, and if we have criteria on exporting weapons then we should stick to them regardless of who we are trading with. That said, I don't think in the real world of compromises and the sometimes necessity to deal with unpleasant regimes that we can afford to be completely inflexible on this. I would need to know more about which arms and which deals with Israel are breaking our licensing criteria before giving a fuller answer, but certainly I would not support selling Israel weapons that can be used against the occupied Palestinians.

(The party 'standard' answer to this question is the following: Liberal Democrats believe that there should be a presumption of denial when considering whether to grant arms export licenses for equipment bound for countries that are listed in the Government's Human Rights and Democracy Report as countries of concern, which currently includes Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories. Under our proposals, it would be up to the Secretary of State to lift the ban on a license if they were certain that those weapons would not be used in contravention of international law.)

4) Numerous reports have highlighted the mistreatment of Palestinian child prisoners in Israeli military detention. Do you agree that any child prisoner should be treated in accordance with international law and not Israeli military law?

Yes / No / Don't Know

Yes.

5) Do you agree that future UK trade deals should include a strong human rights clause, and that any trade agreement with Israel should be conditional upon the respect of international law and human rights?

Yes / No / Don't Know

Yes.

The Liberal Democrats are committed to seeing a negotiated peace settlement with a two-state solution. This will involve difficult, but necessary compromises on both sides of the conflict in order to respect the rights of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

I and my Liberal Democrat colleagues have continued to condemn disproportionate force used by all sides and have always stood firmly in support of the indivisibility of human rights and the rule of law.