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Rabbi Abraham Cooper,  
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Dr Shimon Samuels,  
Director for International Relations

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Dear Rabbi Abraham Cooper and Dr Shimon Samuels,

Thank you for your correspondence of 8 January to the Foreign Secretary, about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). I am replying as the Minister for the Middle East. I sincerely apologise for the delay in responding.

The UK recognises UNRWA's unique mandate from the UN General Assembly, to protect and provide protection and core services to Palestinian refugees across the Middle East. UNRWA is also a vital humanitarian and stabilising force in the region.

We are clear that the final status of Palestinian refugees must be agreed as part of wider peace negotiations. Until that time, the UK remains firmly committed to supporting UNRWA and Palestinian refugees.

UK support to UNRWA's programme budget helps UNRWA provide basic education to more than 533,000 children a year (half of whom are girls), access to health services for 3.5 million Palestinian refugees and social safety net assistance for around 390,000 of the most vulnerable across the region.

We remain confident that UNRWA has a robust neutrality framework in place that ensures neutrality of its staff and installations are maintained. We accompany our support for UNRWA with stringent attention to their implementation of their neutrality framework.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon. Amanda Milling MP**  
**Minister of State for Asia and the Middle East**