



02 JAN 2014

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

17 December 2013

From the Deputy Prime Minister

Dear Ms Foa,

Thank you for your letter of 11 November about UK funding for counter-narcotics programmes run by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

I note the recent decisions by the governments of Denmark and Ireland to withdraw their contributions to UNODC projects in Iran because of their concerns around Iran's use of the death penalty for drugs offences. I would like to reassure you that we no longer fund UNODC programmes in Iran because we have the exact same concerns. Moreover, we continue to raise with the UNODC, and other UN bodies, the need to ensure that their counter-narcotics projects are compliant with international human rights and we have also supported the publication of human rights guidelines for UNODC projects.

As you are aware, the Government does provide counter-narcotics assistance to a range of other international partners, including Pakistan. This is an important element of our efforts to tackle the drugs trade and minimise the threat that it poses to the UK. However, the Government is acutely aware that this assistance must not compromise our clear opposition to the use of capital punishment in all circumstances, including for drugs offences.

I am confident that the Overseas Security and Justice Assistance Guidance published by the Government in 2011 provides real clarity around the UK's position. It ensures that any assistance we provide to international partners supports our values and is consistent with our international obligations, including on capital punishment.

Yours sincerely,

NICK CLEGG

Ms Maya Foa