



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

The Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP
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Iain Stewart MP
House of Commons
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17 January 2022

Dear Iain,

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 January to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, on behalf of a number of your constituents, regarding the debt to Iran. I am replying as the Minister for the Middle East, North Africa and North America.

We continue to explore options to resolve this 40-year old case and will not comment further as discussions are ongoing. It is unhelpful to connect wider bilateral issues with those arbitrarily detained in Iran. It remains in Iran's gift to do the right thing and allow British dual nationals home to be reunited with their family. We have been consistently clear that we continue to explore options to resolve this 40-year old case.

This Government is clear that we do not accept dual British nationals being used as diplomatic leverage. We continue to call upon the Iranian government to allow the immediate return home of those British nationals who have been arbitrarily detained.

Yours ever,

The Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP
Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa and North America

