



**UKTI
ARMED &
DANGEROUS**

Hi there,

You've ordered a campaign pack and want to join with the CAAT supporters who are calling for the demolition of the governments arms sales organisation. Since the election hundreds of people have lobbied their new MP, organised stalls, got demolition orders signed, attended anti arms trade protests and did many other things to make clear to the new government how broad the opposition to its support for arms companies is. What you've achieved so far is remarkable!

But you're right, lets not settle back! There are three important reasons why it is crucial to keep the pressure up.

1. Budget cuts are looming. Tell the new government where to start 'cutting waste'.
2. In the coming months the government will conduct a Strategic Defence, a Security and a Spending Review – good opportunities to exert influence.
3. Educate your MP and counter the arms industry spin.

On the following pages you will find tips and info on:

- Stop Week - CAAT's week of action on page 3
- Lobbying your MP on pages 4-6
- Collecting Demolition Orders on page 9
- Planning a press stunt on page 10
- Arguing the case on pages 7-8
- Writing a press release on page 11

The pack also includes:

- CAAT's new report on the government's arms sales organisation, the snappily named UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation
- A Giant Demolition Order for a local media action
- CAAT's Fundraising Guide
- A few Demolition Order postcards – order more once you know where you are getting signatures!
- A feedback form – don't forget to let us know how it went!

No matter how big or small, tell us what you do so we can show how many people want an end to taxpayers' money propping up arms companies' profits.

Get in touch if you want any ideas or advice, and enjoy campaigning!

The CAAT Team

1 minute action: Email your MP using the easy tool on www.caat.org.uk/issues/ukti/emailmp.php, or we can send you a template letter. If you've already written, keep up the correspondence – see our website, or call or write for up-to-date tips.

5 minute action: Welcome your new MP with a letter, and a copy of CAAT's report enclosed in this pack. More reports are available from CAAT.

10 minute action: Put some Demolition Order cards in your pocket and remember to ask your friends and family to sign when you see them!

1 hour action: Arrange a lobby meeting with your MP or visit their surgery. See pages 4-6 in this guide

2 hour action: Ask your MP or get a group of CAAT supporters to pose with a Giant Demolition Order for your local media. See page 10.

An afternoon: Organise a stall to get 'Demolition Order' postcards signed and show the public support for our campaign. See page 9 in the guide.

Browse the guide for more exciting ideas!



Armed conflict has a devastating impact on the lives of millions of people around the world. Arms exporters help prolong violent conflict, profiting from the human tragedy it brings.

The UK government continues to grant export licenses to countries involved in armed conflict and to countries classified as being 'of concern' in the government's own human rights report. These sales are supported and promoted by a taxpayer funded arms sales unit, the UKTI Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO). Read more about it in the new report enclosed in this pack.

Take Action!

After the election CAAT supporters all over the UK took coordinated action to put an end to the government's arms sales department, the UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO). But this is just the start! The new government has yet to decide what to do about this department. Help us keep campaigning for its closure!



CAAT is calling for the closure of the government's arms sales department UKTI DSO and an end to its functions.

A new government in power

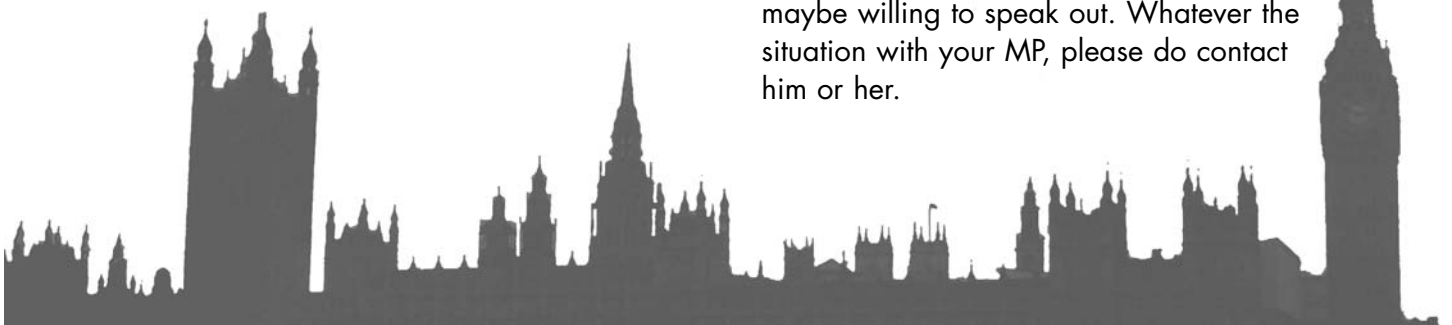
Many of our advocates within parliament have stepped down or haven't been re-elected. This is why we need your help to rebuild our base of support within parliament!

The general election has however not only seen a huge turnover in MPs but also change in government. There are still many unknowns in terms of the coalition's stance on the arms trade and its support for the British arms industry. There are however some worrying signs. The Conservatives have said they want to increase the support given to arms exports, and use arms sales 'as a foreign policy tool'. Peter Luff, minister for defence equipment, support and technology told journalists: "There's a sense that in the past we were rather embarrassed about exporting defence products.

There is no such embarrassment in this government," going on to pledge "There will be very, very, very heavy ministerial commitment to the process."

On the other hand, there's also some hope. Like many other senior Liberal Democrats Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, who has overall responsibility for UKTI DSO, has supported CAAT's campaigns against government support for the arms trade in the past. Perhaps he may be embarrassed where Peter Luff is not.

As said before, there are a lot of unknowns, including new MPs to influence as well as old MPs, particularly those in the Labour Party, freed from the shackles of government and maybe willing to speak out. Whatever the situation with your MP, please do contact him or her.



Stop Week

Busy CAAT supporters

From 19-27 June hundreds of CAAT supporters campaigned for the closure of UKTI DSO across the UK to make clear that the country can't afford the costly support of the arms industry anymore. Local activists met with their MPs, organised stalls, attended protests and got lots of demolition orders signed. The activities mentioned below are just a few examples of what CAAT supporters were up to during CAAT's week of action.

Targeting Vince Cable

In the run up to Stop Week, hundreds of people emailed Vince Cable calling on him to put his past commitments into practice now that he has a real opportunity to tackle arms exports. (Visit <http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/ukti/emailcable/>)

In Stop Week, constituents visited him to find out if he is still sympathetic to the former Lib Dem view that arms exporters receive a disproportionate degree of taxpayer support and to present him with a copy of the new CAAT report Private Gain, Public Pain (enclosed in this pack).

Hilary Evans reports: "Dr Cable began by stating that he isn't against arms trading provided it is properly regulated and carefully monitored, and he believes this to be the case now. It is an area which has been of great concern to him in the past and he has been jointly responsible for instigating the tightening of arms control legislation. The really positive outcome was that he agreed to read CAAT's Private gain, Public pain report and comment fully on it. We will follow it up and it should open up a very valuable dialogue."



Demolition site outside UKTI

London Campaign Against Arms Trade descended on the UKTI department on Monday morning dressed as construction workers to highlight the unsafe nature of the work taking place inside. 200 of CAAT's 'Danger: unsafe structure' postcard were handed out to passers-by and UKTI staff.



Stalls all over the country

CAAT activists got our message across at stalls all over the country: Edinburgh CAAT held a petition stall on Princes Street and arranged a week long exhibition at Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre.



In Poole a successful street stall shifted nearly 200 campaign postcards. Sheffield CAAT ran a stall at the 25th Annual Green Party Fair. Lots of interest was shown, petitions signed and money raised! Norfolk CAAT gave a visual presentation at the Norwich Peace

Camp and lobbied local MPs.

Hull CAAT used the week to focus public attention on why UKTI DSO should be demolished and lobbied local MPs. Thousands heard about the campaign through street stalls including in Macclesfield, Trowbridge and Birmingham.

Successful Day of Prayer

At the start of Stop Week CAAT's Christian Network co-ordinated a Day of Prayer. Over 60 supporters took part and raised awareness in their communities about the arms trade. Penarth CAAT Christian Network held a service at All Saints Church Penarth focused on the government's continuing support for the arms industry.

Do some research

It's useful to do a bit of research before contacting your MP. To know your MP's views, interests and maybe also a bit about his or her background helps you to select the arguments that are most likely to be successful.

There are several ways to find out more about your MP. You can

- find out what your MP's political party is saying about the campaign at www.caat.org.uk/election where we have the parties' latest positions.
- Check your local newspapers for reports of your MP's views on different issues or details of events he or she is attending.
- Much information is online as more and more politicians are using new media to engage with their constituents. Many MPs are setting up their own websites or blogs. To track these down, try putting "MP" and the name of your constituency into a search engine.
- Over 100 MPs are using twitter. www.tweetminster.co.uk tracks political trends on twitter and maintains a list of MPs who are using the service.



Find out more about twitter on the CAAT website. We've also found MPs with Facebook pages, on Youtube and on Flickr.

A helping hand

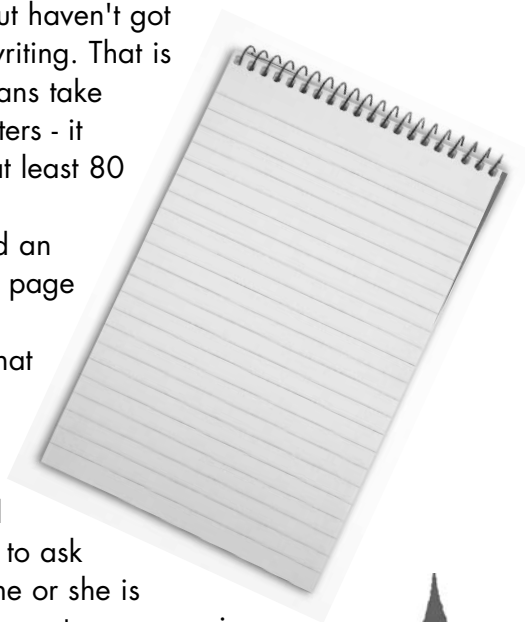
CAAT hopes to make it as easy as possible for you to find the information you need. On our website – at www.caat.org.uk/issues/ukti/election/election-policies.php – you'll find links to the best sources of information and at www.caat.org.uk/resources/westminster_whitehall.php our comments on the new coalition government.

If you don't have internet access, you can call or write to us instead, and we'll send you the information.

Write a letter

Writing a letter or email is a good way to make contact in the first instance, and is an easy way to make your MP aware of an issue and find out what he or she thinks. It is estimated that every letter received by a politician represents about 80 people who care but haven't got around to writing. That is why politicians take notice of letters - it represents at least 80 votes!

You can find an example on page 12. But remember that personal letters have the most impact, and don't forget to ask your MP if he or she is willing to support our campaign.



Meet your MP

A face-to-face meeting with your MP is the best way to get the campaign message across. It gives you the opportunity to find out what your MP thinks and why, and answer any questions or objections, and is the easiest way to obtain a commitment to support the campaign. It can seem intimidating if you've not done it before, but don't be scared! MPs want to hear your views. You might even find you know a lot more than they do about this issue!

Arrange a meeting

Start early to arrange a lobby meeting as you're probably not the only one who wants to talk to the new MP.

To arrange a meeting, you normally just need to email, write or call. Check the MP's personal or the party website for contact details, or phone the MP's local political party. Explain what you would like to discuss as your MP may like to do some preparation. If you have postcards to present or will provide a photo opportunity (p10), mention this too.

Link up with other CAAT supporters

If you would like to find other people to plan a lobbying meeting with, we can put you in touch with other CAAT supporters in your area. Just call the office, or email annemarie@caat.org.uk

Be prepared

Good preparation improves your chances of convincing your MP and you will feel more confident and comfortable in answering questions.

- **Make sure that you have the latest information** about CAAT's campaign. You can find it in the new report about UKTI DSO in this pack.

Get signed demolition orders

If you're meeting your MP, get in touch with us to check whether there are demolition orders signed by others in your constituency.

- **Close UKTI DSO!** That's **the key message** you want to put across. Find some hard-hitting statistics on page 7 and 8 or in the new report enclosed in this pack to back up your key message.
- **What do you think are the most likely arguments** your MP will bring up in support of the arms trade? You'll find the most common arguments and how to counter them on page 7 and 8.
- **Prepare something that shows that the issue is important to the constituency.** You can for example hand over a bundle of signed campaign postcards (p 9). Let us know if you're meeting your MP. We can send you postcards, signed by others in your area, so you can show your MP how many people care about this issue.
- **Consider bringing the Giant Demolition Order** to the meeting, and taking a camera. Remember that as well as telling your MP about the campaign, our



Roger Barlow, the Lib Dems' candidate in Macclesfield signing a Demolition Order.

aim is to persuade as many MPs as possible to make a public pledge of support. Politicians like to get in the press, so it's good to offer a photo opportunity. Ask your MP to sign the giant demolition order you've received with this pack.



Meet your MP

At the meeting

The objectives of the meeting

1. MP to sign a demolition order pledging his or her support for the campaign
2. MP to write to Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to raise your concerns

- **Arrive on time!** Don't forget to allow for any transport delays.
- **Introduce yourself.** Tell your MP why the issue is especially important to you.
- **Take notes** during the meeting. If you are in a group decide before the meeting who is going to take the notes.
- **Present your key message succinctly** and tell your MP why it is an important issue. Try to answer his or her questions as well as possible. Make sure that he or she understands your point of view.
- Be friendly and listen to your MP's point of view, but **remain focused on what you're trying to achieve.** Stick to the issue. For example, if he or she tries to side-track you into a general discussion, you may need to politely but firmly say "that's clearly an important issue, and I would be willing to discuss it further, but before we do so I would like to finish discussing your position on UK arms exports."
- **Present some sign of public support** to your MP (signed petitions, press articles etc.) to convince the MP that it is an important issue.
- If your MP is supportive of our campaign, ask him or her to take action in **signing the giant**

demolition order, posing for a picture with your group or maybe even writing a **joint press release** (p 10).

- Ask your MP to write a **letter to Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills**, informing him of your concerns, whether he or she has signed a demolition order or not. This is a good way to call attention to the issue on the national level (find a sample letter on p 12).
- **Offer your MP some information on the campaign.** You can present him or her with the new report enclosed in this pack which makes the case for the closure of UKTI DSO.

Follow up

- Send a **letter about the meeting to the local press**, including some pictures (p 10).
- Send a **thank you note to the MP** reminding him or her on any agreed action points.
- **Keep your MP informed** about important developments. If the MP made any promises to take action for our cause, make sure that you check after a while if he or she has taken the promised action.
- **Let CAAT know** how the meeting went! You can fill out the feedback form enclosed in this pack to do so. Even if it was discouraging it's extremely useful for us to know what was said so we can understand his or her position better. If your MP supported the campaign, we want to record and celebrate this! Other local campaigners may also be able to learn from your experience.



Arguing the case

Whether you're lobbying your MP or talking to members of the public, you're bound to meet with some disagreement. Here are some ideas for how you can respond to the arguments most commonly wheeled out in defence of the UK's support for arms exports.

"The UK only supports legitimate arms exports. Arms exports are subject to tight controls."

This one depends on your definition of 'legitimate'. UKTI DSO actively promotes arms sales to countries involved in conflict. Arms exports facilitate and prolong conflict and, in modern warfare, the casualties are overwhelmingly civilian. In 2008, the UK sold arms to 11 of the 15 countries that were experiencing at least one major armed conflict.

UKTI DSO also actively promotes arms sales to governments with records of sustained human rights abuses including China, Iraq, Israel, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The Foreign Office (FCO) publishes an annual Human Rights report. Its most recent edition listed 22 "major countries of concern", apparently unembarrassed that another FCO report identified ten of these as recipients of UK arms during the same period.

"Responsible defence exports help governments ensure that their people enjoy security."

Arms exports don't make this world a safer place. They fuel conflict and insecurity around the world. The conflict between India and Pakistan makes South Asia one of the most volatile regions of the world, yet the UK supplies weapons and weapon parts to both. Does this make the people who live in either country feel more secure?

Despite the frequent use of arms by Israel against Palestinian civilians and southern Lebanon, the UK government continues to licence the export of military equipment to Israel. What security does this afford those killed, injured or bereaved by the use of such weapons?

The UK government's support for BAE Systems' arms sales to Saudi Arabia trumps all other policy objectives, overlooking the country's record of human rights abuse and corruption. The Saudi Arabian government even threatened to cut off security co-operation with the UK to stop the Serious Fraud Office investigation into these sales. Are these military exports to Saudi Arabia "responsible"? Do they really help Saudi, or UK, citizens enjoy security?

"Arms exports are vital for the UK's national security."

Arms sales guarantee neither peace nor security. History shows that using arms exports as a policy tool can go horribly wrong and that it certainly didn't work for past governments: arming the Shah in Iran didn't prevent the tanks falling into the hands of the ayatollahs and selling arms to Argentina didn't stop the invasion of the Falklands. In the Falklands conflict British troops came face to face with UK produced arms.

Once military equipment has been exported we have little control over how it may be used. The current government has recently made high-level political interventions to help arms companies sell to Libya. Does arming Libya increase the UK's security?

UKTI DSO's goal is sell arms overseas, not to help provide the best military equipment for the UK armed forces. Its concern is business, and the market leads them to focus on countries including Iraq, Libya, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Political situations can change substantially but company profits clearly outweigh concerns over the possible future use of weaponry against the UK armed forces.

Climate change is widely recognised as the greatest threat to global security, but as it is not a military problem with military solutions it barely registers when the UK Government allocates resources to 'security'. The costs to UK prosperity of indulging in US-led wars are considerable; the costs of not addressing environmental threats are likely to overshadow these.



Arguing the case

"We should support our military and the British companies who support them."

Whatever your views on the armed forces, it is clear that the UK military and the arms companies are entirely different types of bodies with entirely different interests. **An arms company's goal is to make profit for its shareholders, not to serve a particular country's national interest.**

Like other large companies, arms manufacturers will move wherever they can gain markets and profits for shareholders – and that is often outside the UK. BAE Systems is a case in point. While its recent advertising campaign plays on its British roots with union flags galore, it employs more workers in the US than the UK. Its biggest markets and factories are in the US, while it is building other "home markets" in Saudi Arabia, India, Sweden, South Africa and Australia. BAE gives priority to British needs only as long as these coincide with profits.

The "myth" of a British arms industry can, in fact, have negative effects on the UK military. Defence writer Lewis Page argues that *"the armed services have long been compelled to pay wildly excessive prices for equipment in order to preserve jobs in the British arms sector. We must pay double or triple the price, often for inferior products, in order to preserve 'sovereignty'."* while, as Page says, *"Sovereignty' is a joke"*.

"The UK supports an Arms Trade Treaty"

CAAT supports the idea of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in principle, which could strengthen the hands of governments trying to prevent the circulation of small arms. **However, it does not address the wider arms trade and problems associated with it.**

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) has told CAAT that the ATT will not prevent any UK sales. This was reinforced by the Defence Manufacturers Association's DMA News, Jan 2006, which said the DMA believes *"the eventual Treaty would not bring new obligations for UK industry."* It is clear that the deals the companies find most lucrative, such as those to Saudi Arabia, Israel, India and Pakistan, would continue unabated.

The ATT is supported by the arms industry; unsurprisingly, since the FCO says it: *"will be good for business, both manufacturing and export sales."*

As currently envisaged, the ATT allows the Government to create the impression it is taking action, whilst it continues to support the arms companies in their deadly business.

"Arms exports are vital for jobs and the economy."

The government clings to this argument as it is the only line the UK public will accept when it comes to selling arms. It is a myth perpetuated by the arms industry.

Arms export jobs make up 0.2% of the UK workforce and arms exports comprise only 1.5 per cent of total exports. Even this is an overestimate of importance as many of the components of UK arms exports were imported in the first place (approximately 40 per cent of the value of the exports).

Add to this the fact that the arms industry is already receives heavy subsidies, ranging from arms promotion, to subsidised export insurance and research & development (R&D) support. The best available information indicates a subsidy in the range £500 million to £1 billion. Even at the lower end, this would mean that each arms export job was subsidised by £9,000 each year.

This means economic activity is skewed towards arms production, rather than other more useful sectors. The Government could choose to support other sectors that will provide long-term benefit and are urgently needed, yet UKTI devotes more staff to arms sales as to every other industry sector combined. UKTI's support for the arms industry is totally disproportionate to its contribution to the economy.

The arms industry argues that investment in the arms industry will help kickstart a recovery from recession. However, even defence minister Quentin Davies MP has stated that it is labour-intensive industries that stimulate the economy, adding *"this is not the case with defence: defence is capital intensive rather than labour-intensive."*



Demonstrate public support

So we want to 'demolish' the government's arms sales department – UKTI DSO - and persuade our new MPs to sign Giant Demolition Orders to show their support. How are we going to do it?

Lots of Demolition Orders!

We want to show our new MPs that in this climate of cuts to public spending, government support for the arms trade can no longer be justified. Contact CAAT to order a pile of 'Demolition Order' postcards and start thinking about where you can get them signed...

Getting cards signed

Organising a stall can be lots of fun and a good chance to link up with other CAAT supporters in your local area. But think creatively, and there's probably lots of things you're already doing where you can get 'Demolition Orders' signed too.

- Public meetings you attend
- A coffee morning at your house
- Your colleagues and friends
- In your faith community.

If you find someone who's particularly interested in the campaign, then they may be your next stall volunteer!

Organising the perfect stall

If there's not yet a CAAT group in your area, contact annemarie@caat.org.uk to find out if there are local supporters we could put you in touch with.

- Order your materials from CAAT – we can supply a CAAT table cloth, Giant Demolition Orders and postcards to make the Demolition Order theme really clear!
- Try and have at least two people, so that one person can look after the table, while another approaches passers-by with a clipboard and a smile!
- Think about your opening line to attract people's attention. You could try: "No more tax money for arms company profits?"

- Collect your postcards, forward CAAT the contact details section and hang onto the Demolition Order section to present to your new MP.

For more tips on running a stall, request our Top Tips advice sheet and our Local Campaigns Guide from the office.



Ideas for presenting to MP

The great thing about the Demolition Order postcards is they are really visual so even a few can have a big impact! You might want to stick them all to a cardboard backing to have something large and memorable to hand to your MP at a surgery or meeting. Or if you don't have time to meet your MP in person, write a covering letter explaining why you are passionate about ending government support for arms companies and clearly asking them to call for the closure of UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation.



Inform the media

How do we make our actions more effective? We can use our local media to get our message out further and to put more pressure on our politicians!

We've made it easy with a Giant Demolition Order (enclosed in this pack) which is the basis for a media action for your local press.

How to use the Giant Demolition Order

Option 1: Hopefully your lobbying meeting or letter will have been so successful that your new MP wants to publicly support our campaign by signing a Giant Demolition Order. Agree a joint press release with quotes from your MP and a local CAAT supporter. Arrange who will invite the local media to the photo opportunity and go from there! Even if no media photographers are available, take your own photos, share them with CAAT and circulate them to the local media in case they want to use them.

Option 2: Your MP isn't quite there yet, but you've met with her or him and want to publicise their response. You can stage your own photo – maybe posting the demolition order at a symbolic location (the MP's office?), whilst dressed as a construction worker. You can use the photo to get coverage for your reaction to your MP's position.



Option 3: You might not have the resources or people for a photo media stunt, but you can use the Giant Demolition Order as a visual prop, for example when you run a street stall. Write a letter to your local paper and offer interviews to local television and radio about what you are doing and why. Your angle could be your MP's response and whether it bodes well for the next four years.

Getting coverage

On the next page you will find a draft press release to approach your media. Don't forget these key steps for securing media coverage:

1. **Background work:** What media is available to you? This might include not only local press, radio and TV, but parish newsletters, local community websites or student media too. When are their deadlines? Who is the best person to contact?
2. **Your angle and hook:** What angle is most likely to have success for your target media? Linking your campaign story to your MP's response to the campaign might be of use.
3. **Getting the story out:** Adapt the draft press release here and send out to your target media. Follow up with a quick phone call where you can give a two sentence summary of what is going to interest them about your story, and invite them to your photo opportunity.
4. **DIY:** Take your own pictures too and make your own stories! Write up your action for the CAAT website, Indymedia, your newsletter or website and forward the photos and story to local papers who couldn't attend.

There's more advice on media work in CAAT's Local Media Guide and top tips on our website. Contact CAAT to order a copy of the guide.



Sample press release



[your contact details]

[today's date here]

Press Release

[your heading here eg]

[Name of MP] calls for closure of government's arms sales unit

[First paragraph should contain essential info eg]

Supporters of Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) met [name of MP], MP of [constituency], on [date] to discuss his/her position on the UK's promotion of the arms trade. [outcome of meeting eg] He/she pledged to call for the closure of the government's arms sales unit in the new parliament.

[More info in following paragraphs eg]

[Date eg] yesterday, supporters of CAAT lobbied [name of MP], who successfully defended his/her seat in [constituency]/ won the seat for [party] in [constituency] at the general election, on British arms exports and their promotion through the government.

At the end of the meeting [MP] signed a written statement that calls for the closure of the government's arms sales unit UK Trade and Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO).

[Quote of MP: ask your MP for a quote.]

[Quote of local campaigner eg] "We're delighted that [name of MP] has supported this campaign. UKTI uses our money to help private companies sell to human rights abusers and countries in conflict. It devotes more staff to arms sales than to every other industry sector combined. Instead of pushing arms sales around the globe, this money would be better spent on tackling real threats to our security, such as climate change: a move that would also create new jobs and boost the economy "

ENDS

[your contact details here]

Notes

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) works for the reduction and ultimate abolition of the international arms trade together with progressive demilitarisation within arms producing countries. For more information visit www.caat.org.uk or contact Kaye Stearman of CAAT, on 020 7281 0297.

If you need further help, give us a call for adapting it to different circumstances.

Sample letter

[Your address]

Dear [MP's name],

I'm writing to ask you to support action to end government promotion of arms sales. I'd like to draw your attention to a new report - available at <http://bit.ly/PrivateGain> - from Campaign Against Arms Trade which makes the case for the closure of the Government's arms trading unit, the UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO).

All political parties claim to support arms control, but this report describes the failure of existing controls to stop sales into regions of conflict, to governments that abuse human rights and to countries where there are significant development needs.

In fact, far from seeking to control or restrain arms sales, the Government actively promotes them, in particular through UKTI DSO. The report details how UKTI DSO helps private companies make deals with repressive regimes and countries involved in conflict. This has a devastating impact on the millions of people whose lives are damaged by the international arms trade, and also threatens our own security, as we have little control over how weapons are used once they have been sold. As long as arms promotion is seen as the business of government there is no prospect of meaningful arms control.

The support given to the arms industry is entirely disproportionate. UKTI devotes 180 staff to promoting arms sales, whereas the specific support provided to ALL non-arms sectors amounts to 142 staff - despite arms being only 1.5% of total exports. Add to this the fact that the arms industry already receives heavy subsidies - in the range of £500 million to £1 billion. Even at the lower end this would mean that each arms export job was subsidised by £9,000 each year.

Instead of pushing arms sales around the globe, this money would be better spent on tackling real threats to our security, such as climate change: a move that would also create new jobs and boost the economy.

Campaign Against Arms Trade is calling for the new government to close UKTI DSO and end its functions. I would like to know if you will support this call, and to ask you, as my MP, to please write to Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, urging him to use his powers as the Minister responsible for UKTI to see that this is done.

Yours sincerely,

[your name]

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