



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Catherine West MP
Minister for the Indo-Pacific

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Email:
fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

Ellie Chowns MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Ellie,

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 October to the Foreign Secretary, on behalf of a number of your constituents, about the detention of Jagtar Singh Johal in India. I am replying as the Minister for the Indo-Pacific.

The Foreign Secretary met Mr Johal's family on several occasions while in opposition. We are therefore keenly aware of the seriousness of Mr Johal's case. We have carefully studied the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's opinion on Mr Johal's case and have already raised specific concerns in his case with the Government of India, including his allegations of torture.

The need for progress in Mr Johal's case is something that the Foreign Secretary made clear to the Government of India during multiple meetings while in opposition. Since taking office, on 24 July the Foreign Secretary raised Mr Johal's case with Indian External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar during his first official visit to India as Foreign Secretary. We are committed to engaging with the Government of India to make clear the need for a resolution in Mr Johal's case, which must include an investigation into his allegations of torture.

We have also continued to provide support to Mr Johal while he is in custody. Consular officials from the British High Commission regularly attend court hearings as observers, most recently on 12 July. Consular officials also visit Mr Johal in detention regularly, most recently on 9 July, and are in regular contact with Mr Johal's family.

Yours ever,

CATHERINE WEST MP
Minister for the Indo-Pacific