



City Hall Greens

**Caroline Russell AM
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
LONDON E16 1ZE**

Mayor of London
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
LONDON E16 1ZE
(Via email)

4 October 2024

Dear Sadiq,

Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair

I am writing as a Green Party London Assembly Member, and on behalf of my colleagues Zack Polanski AM and Zoë Garbett AM.

Londoners have been writing to us expressing their desperation at the escalating violence in the Middle East and are calling for stronger action from Government on the international stage to bring about a ceasefire and solutions for long-term peace. People are distraught by the attacks on innocent civilians and the huge numbers of people who have died.

Within this international context and intensifying bloodshed, we believe it is unconscionable that London continues to host one of the world's largest arms fairs, that markets deadly weapons and military technology, to states that abuse human rights and flout international law.

The Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair is a stain on our city.

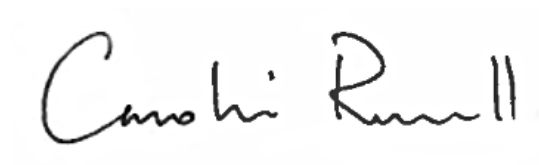
You have always joined us in condemning the DSEI arms fair and we welcome this, as well as your new announcement of funding to counter the steep rise in antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crimes.

In a previous exchange on this issue you told me you had "written to both ExCel, [who host the event], and the event organiser strongly urging them to not hold this event at ExCel in future".

Could you update me on this correspondence and what further representations you have made to both ExCel and the organiser about not holding this event in London?

We ask you to again stand with us in denouncing the arms fair and all atrocities where the British Government is supplying arms around the world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Russell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Russell AM
Green Party Member of the London Assembly

MAYOR OF LONDON

Caroline Russell AM
Caroline.Russell@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA041024-2258

Date: 14 March 2025

Dear Caroline,


Thank you for your letter regarding the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair to be held in September 2025 at ExCel London. I share your concerns and appreciate you raising this with me. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

As you are aware, the DSEI arms fair is not an event that I support, and I oppose the use of London as a market place for the trade of weapons to countries that contribute to human rights abuses. As you note, I have previously contacted the organisers to express my deep concern that this event takes place in London, calling on them to reconsider hosting the event in the capital and to cover the policing costs incurred by the Metropolitan Police Service.

Regrettably, neither permitting nor cancelling this event is within my remit. The event is supported by the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Business and Trade, and I would recommend that you contact them directly to raise your concerns.

Stop The Arms Fair is a network of groups and individuals who have joined forces to put an end to DSEI and all UK arms fairs. You can find out more about their work at www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the name.

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London