



Foreign &  
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Gillian Merron  
Chief Executive  
Board of Deputies of British Jews

Gideon Taylor  
Chair of Operations  
World Jewish Restitution Organisation

25th October 2016

Dear Gillian Merron and Gideon Taylor,

Thank you for your joint letter of 29 September to the Foreign Secretary about the restitution of property in Central and Eastern Europe. I am replying as Minister responsible for human rights.

This Government attaches great significance to supporting the families tragically affected by the Holocaust – including on the important issue of property restitution. We value our close working relationship with both your organisations in taking this important work forward.

A key part of Sir Eric Pickles' mandate is to try to achieve progress on post-Holocaust property restitution with countries such as Poland. He is due to visit Poland soon and will call on various government representatives to discuss restitution matters. Sir Eric Pickles has also recently joined the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation's International Committee. This role will serve as a further platform for future engagement with Poland on the challenging agenda around post-Holocaust restitution issues. Sir Eric Pickles will continue to look for opportunities to raise post-Holocaust property restitution with other countries where issues remain unresolved.

The UK remains committed to working with international partners to encourage the full implementation of the Terezin Declaration. We will continue to press for due recognition for victims in countries such as Poland and beyond.

Yours sincerely,  
Jayce Anelay