

**Kirstene Hair MP**  
Member of Parliament for Angus



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA



**UK military action in Syria**

**April 2018**

Thank you for contacting me about recent military action in Syria.

The Prime Minister has been clear that the fact that this terrible chemical weapons attack took place in Douma in our world today is a stain on our humanity, and I agree with her that the UK and its international allies had to respond to this.

Their response was limited, targeted and proportionate, and came on the back of a significant body of information, including intelligence, that indicates that the Syrian regime was responsible for this attack. Everything possible was done to avoid escalation and to prevent civilian casualties.

There have been extensive diplomatic attempts to commit Syria to dismantling its chemical weapons programme, which have failed. The Government had no choice but to conclude that diplomatic action on its own was not going to work.

This action was not about intervening in the civil war in Syria or about regime change but about protecting civilians and upholding and defending the global consensus of nearly 100 years that chemical weapons should not be used. It is absolutely right to try to prevent the use of chemical weapons, either in Syria or on the streets of the UK, to become normalised.

I believe that it is right that the Prime Minister must have the flexibility to act in a limited, proportionate and speedy way to deal with a very real threat. However, when the Government decides to take action without a Parliamentary debate, it is right that Parliament is given an opportunity as soon as possible to give all Members the ability to question the decision and hold the Government to account. That is why the Prime Minister came to the House at the first opportunity and why the issue has been given significant Parliamentary time since then.

Once again I thank you for taking the time to contact me about this issue. The huge volume of correspondence I have received on this topic makes it clear how important it is to my constituents, and I hope the above is able to clarify my position on this issue.

Kind regards,

**Kirstene Hair MP**  
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