

**Report of the visit of the Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor (Alderman Charles Bowman)
to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories
22nd-24th January 2018**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Lord Mayor visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories between 22nd and 24th January 2018, undertaking meetings and engagements in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Ramallah. He engaged with a range of business leaders and representatives of the Government of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority.

2. The Lord Mayor had meetings with the Business Minister of Israel, the Governor of the Bank of Israel and the Governor of the Palestinian Monetary Authority, as well as the Minister for Economic Development at the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction.

3. Israel is a particular source of Fintech expertise in Cybersecurity, partly because so many young people work on cyber security during their period of national service in the armed forces, and come out with the knowledge and connections to set up successful and innovative start-ups. Tel Aviv is a centre of innovation with strong connections to the sector in London, but these can be strengthened even further to the benefit of both the UK and Israel. The Business Minister of Israel will visit London next month with a fintech delegation, and the Corporation will help the Israeli Embassy to host a fintech conference at Mansion House.

4. The Lord Mayor visited several tech start-up incubators, in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and in the Palestinian new town of Rawabi. This demonstrated the strength and diversity of the sector. The Occupied Palestinian Territories have a young and highly educated population, but with high levels of unemployment. Many of them have the skills and the interest to work in tech, which makes the OPTs a desirable location for outsourcing of tech support, call centres or other IT or communications services, due to the lower cost of labour. The developers of the new town of Rawabi in the West Bank seek to support the growth of this sector.

5. The Lord Mayor was also able to visit the St John's Eye Hospital in Jerusalem, learning more about its work in the communities of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

17. The Lord Mayor would like to thank HE David Quarrey CMG (HM Ambassador at Tel Aviv) and Philip Hall OBE (HM Consul General, Jerusalem) and their teams, together with the FCO and DIT in London, who helped to make the visit a success.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

Israel: Coordinate with Israeli Embassy on visit of Business Minister and Fintech delegation to London in February. EDO and Mansion House to help stage conference at Mansion House.	Post / MH / EDO
Israel: Invite Governor of Bank of Israel to Bankers Dinner in June 2018.	Post / MH
OPTs: Invite Governor of Palestinian Monetary Authority to City Banquet in Oct 2018.	Post / MH
OPTs: Coordinate with the Mansion House Scholarship Scheme on further scholarships or bursaries for the OPTs.	Post / MH

Objectives for the visit can be found at Appendix A. The Lord Mayor's programme is at Appendix B.
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VISIT OBJECTIVES

Overarching objectives of the visit

- To deliver positive messages about the confidence of the City despite Brexit
- To highlight business opportunities and address regulatory, legal and market access challenges
- To promote and support the interests of UK based financial and professional services firms

Desired outcomes

- To present a confident message about the strength and confidence of the City to a wide audience in government and business, meeting with top investors and government officials;
- To support inward investment efforts from Israel's world-leading innovation ecosystem – namely cyber security and fintech companies and presenting the opportunities that come with establishing a base in London;
- To support DIT's efforts to attract capital investment from Israel into UK infrastructure;
- Support work of LSEG in Israel in attracting listings from high-growth Israeli companies to London.

PROGRAMME**Monday 22nd January 2018 – London / Tel Aviv / Jerusalem**

TIME	ENGAGEMENT
08.05	Lord Mayor departs London Heathrow for Israel.
14.50	Arrive Ben Gurion airport.
15.30	Car transfer to Jerusalem.
16.30	CALL on the Minister of Economy and Industry (Mr Eli Cohen)
17.30	Car transfer to Tel Aviv
18.45	BRIEFING MEETING
19.30	DINNER hosted by HM Ambassador
22.00	End of daily programme.

Tuesday 23 January 2018 – Tel Aviv / Jerusalem

TIME	ENGAGEMENT
07.45	BRIEFING with the London Stock Exchange
08.00	BREAKFAST with the London Stock Exchange
10.00	MEDIA TIME
11.15	FINTECH VISIT and ROUNDTABLE
12.30	Car transfer to Jerusalem.
14.00	CALL on the Governor of the Bank of Israel (Dr Karnit Flug).
15.15	VISIT to Haredi Fintech Incubator
18.15	TOUR of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

18.50	BRIEFING SESSION
19.30	DINNER hosted by the Consul General

Wednesday 24th January 2018 – Jerusalem / Ramallah

TIME	ENGAGEMENT
08.00	Car transfer to West Bank.
09.00	MEETING with the Founder of the Rawabi new town and Tech Hub (Mr Bashar Masri)
11.00	CALL on the Governor of the Palestinian Monetary Authority (Mr Azzam Shawwa)
12.00	CALL on the Head, Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) (Dr Mohammad Shtayyeh)
13.00	Car transfer to Ben Gurion Airport.
15.55	LM departs Israel for Zurich.