

LOUIE FRENCH MP
OLD BEXLEY & SIDCUP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Old Bexley C of E Primary School .
Hurst Road
Bexley
Kent
DA5 3JR

22 February 2023

Dear Class 5CB

Re: Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

Thank you for your letters regarding the tragic Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. I am very grateful to you all for sharing your views on this important issue with me.

The devastation brought by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria has been deeply saddening. I offer my condolences to all those impacted by this tragedy and my thoughts remain with all those affected.

As always, our local community has come together with care and compassion following the disaster with many asking the best ways that they can support Turkey and Syria, and it really does highlight the incredible community spirit we have in Old Bexley and Sidcup.

I had the great honour of supporting local Councillor Andy Dourmouh and the Turkish School at Blackfen School for Girls collection last weekend, which was an incredible community and voluntary effort, with several truck loads of clothes, blankets and health products collected. I also spoke on Turkish TV to highlight our community efforts.

The lovely people at Sidcup Bid and St John's Church, Sidcup have also collected donations of blankets, baby clothes, nappies and winter clothes, whilst in Welling Barry and the excellent Welling Town Businesses have collected similar donations.

In response to the devastating earthquake on 6 February, I strongly welcome that HM Government (HMG) offered support to both countries only hours after the earthquake struck. To Turkey, HMG immediately deployed 77 UK search and rescue specialists, four search dogs, and rescue equipment, including seismic listening devices, concrete cutting and breaking equipment, and propping and shoring tools.

HMG announced an additional £8 million package of life-saving support to cover both Turkey and Syria on 8 February. This will provide provide vital items, such as tents and blankets to help survivors cope with the freezing conditions, as part of its immediate response to the crisis.

This urgently-deployed equipment will meet the needs of up to 15,000 people. In addition, the UK is also providing a world-class team of UK medics with surgical capabilities and equipment to provide vital emergency treatment.

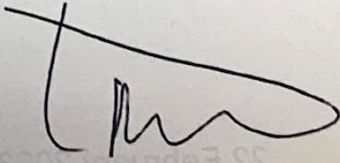
The British public has also displayed enormous generosity. On 8 February, the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) launched a joint appeal for Turkey and Syria, whereby the Government committed to match fund £5 million to support British aid organisations. This appeal has now raised over £84 million for both Turkey and Syria.

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I thank both classes at Old Bexley for contacting me in regards to the earthquakes, and it was a pleasure to see the passion and support you have for Turkey and Syria. It was wonderful to visit your school last year and I look forward to visiting again soon and maybe welcoming some of you to visit me in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Louie



Louie French MP
Member of Parliament for Old Bexley and Sidcup

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The urgently-deployed equipment will meet the needs of up to 15,000 people in addition to the UK is also providing a world-class team of air medics with surgical capabilities and equipment to provide vital emergency treatment.

The British public has also displayed enormous generosity. On 9 February, the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) launched a joint appeal for Turkey and Syria whereby the Government committed to match fund £5 million to support British and international appeals. The appeal has now raised over £84 million for both Turkey and Syria.

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