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From: Barry.Grossman@fco.gov.uk [mailto:Barry.Grossman@fco.gov.uk]

Sent: 20 January 2004 11:06

To:

Cc: Janna.Shortt@fco.gov.uk

Subject: RE: Visit to Jerusalem

Dear Geoff

Thanks for your email. You asked a number of questions about the tender to operate the welfare-to-work programme (the so-called Wisconsin Plan).

1. We know about the tender which, as you rightly point out, has not yet been published. Apparently, representatives of nine foreign companies have indicated that they will participate in the preliminary suppliers conference on Thursday 22 January. These include three from the Netherlands, and five from the USA (Maximus, Affiliated Computer Services, the Kaiser group, American Works, and General Physics). The tender requires that foreign bidders have Israeli partners and dozens of Israeli companies will also attend the conference.

The Economics Arrangement Law recently passed by the Knesset (Israel's parliament) approved the plan as a three-year trial at four employment centres to be set up in areas with chronically high unemployment. Each centre will handle 3500 households receiving income supplements. Participating

in the plan is mandatory for these households.

2. We are the post responsible, not the BCG in Jerusalem.

3. I would be happy to meet during his visit to Israel. Please ask him to contact my assistant, Elaine Avisror (elaine.avisror@fco.gov.uk; tel 972 3 7251268), to fix a time.

4. Depending on the value of the contract there could be some offset/buy-back obligations.

5. Re the structure of the enterprise in Israel, if A4e win the tender, we would recommend them to take advice from an accountant/lawyer, and we could provide them with a list of these professionals.

Regards

Barry

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UK Trade and Investment is the Government organisation that supports companies in the UK trading internationally as well as overseas companies seeking to locate in the UK.