



## Defence Committee

Chair, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP

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Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP  
Secretary of State for Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
Whitehall  
London  
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6 May 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

You will be aware of the report in today's *Daily Telegraph* of an amendment to US budget legislation to ban new deployments of US planes in countries with at-risk vendors in their 5G or 6G networks. If passed, this would preclude the long-planned USAF deployment of F35s at RAF Lakenheath and could also bring into question the plans for HMS Queen Elizabeth to carry US Marine Corps F35s.

I am sure you agree with me that even the airing of such disagreements between us and our closest security ally is unhelpful in a time when global stability is at the lowest it has been for a generation. I should therefore be grateful if you could clarify what the Government is doing to ensure that this initiative is not pursued further.

pp Yours sincerely,  
Tobias Ellwood

**Rt Hon. Tobias Ellwood MP**  
**Chair of the Defence Committee**