



SECRETARY OF STATE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5, ZONE D, MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 020 7218 9000
Fax: 020 721 87140
E-mail: defencesecretary-group@mod.gov.uk

4.5.1.6

9 June 2020

Dear Tobias,

I am writing to inform you that I have decided to change the timescale of the next review of the Single Source Contract Regulations (SSCRs) due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

There is a requirement under the Defence Reform Act 2014 to review the SSCRs three years after their introduction and at least every five years thereafter. You will recall that the first review was completed in accordance with the legislation in December 2017 and that the next one was therefore due by December 2022. The then Secretary of State previously indicated that the review would be brought forward to December 2020 because of the complexity of the framework and the need to adjust further in the light of experience gained since 2017. He informed Parliament of this intention in paragraph 14.1 of the Explanatory Memorandum to the Single Source Contract (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019 No. 1106).

My officials will continue work on the review, but I have directed them to plan on the basis that it will not complete until significantly into 2021. I have taken this decision because the review of the SSCRs needs to take account of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the priorities and plans of the Ministry of Defence and the wider defence sector. It will be important that the review is aligned with the findings of the Government's broader Integrated Review which, as you know, has been paused to allow the Government to focus on its response to the pandemic, as well as the related work to review the UK's defence and security industrial sectors which was launched earlier this year.

I will keep you abreast of developments in this area and inform you when a new timetable has been finalised.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON BEN WALLACE MP

The Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP
Chair, House of Commons Defence Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA