



Defence Committee

Chairman, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood

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Jeremy Quinn MP
Minister for Defence Procurement
Ministry of Defence

28 June 2022

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your helpful and informative letter of 13 June responding to our additional questions on the Royal Navy. In it you proposed that the Department would provide its first annual update to the Defence Committee on Surface Fleet availability and shipbuilding plans in October 2022: Members of the Committee are happy to agree to this and appreciate your and the Department's proactive work to arrange it.

I wanted to confirm that once we have received the report we would plan to take oral evidence from the SROs for the Type 26 and Type 31 programmes soon afterwards in order to answer any additional questions (as outlined in Paragraph 156 of our report). In addition, if an SRO has been appointed for the Fleet Solid Support Ship or any other Surface Fleet shipbuilding or maintenance programmes by then we would also plan to include them. In order to help you and the Department plan and to ensure we hear from them in a timely manner, we would like to arrange this session before the report is delivered. Based on when the report is expected we would suggest they give evidence at our meeting on Tuesday 22 November, but the Committee staff will be happy to work with your team to find a convenient date around then. We plan to take evidence in a private, formal session, and to consult you on any details that may need redacting from the transcript before it is published.

*P.P. Yours sincerely,
Tobias Ellwood*

Rt Hon. Tobias Ellwood MP
Chair of the Defence Committee