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4.8.1.2

28 August 2020

*Dear Tobias*

Thank you for your letter of 20 July regarding the deployment of HMS Queen Elizabeth as part of a Carrier Strike Group. You asked for information including the composition of the group, where it would transit and whether it be stationed at a forward base in the region.

HMS Queen Elizabeth will take part in the Carrier Strike Group 21 deployment next year, likely commencing in May. Whilst the detailed plan for the deployment remains under development, the Prime Minister has agreed to an ambitious inaugural deployment, operating in areas vital to our prosperity. While there will be port visits, there is currently no plan to permanently station the group at any forward base.

With respect to the composition of the group, we plan to deploy a full Carrier Strike Group, including destroyers, frigates, auxiliary support vessels and a range of aircraft, including Merlin helicopters and F35-B jets. We plan to augment the group with capability from key Allies.

Further information regarding this deployment will be released as planning evolves.

**THE RT HON BEN WALLACE MP**

The Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP  
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OFFICIAL



## Defence Committee

Chair, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP

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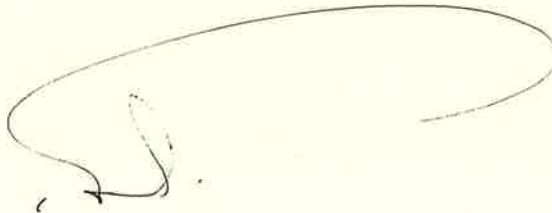
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20 July 2020

*D. Sealy f. J. J.*

The Committee is interested by reports of plans to deploy HM Queen Elizabeth to East Asia as part of a carrier strike group. We would be grateful for any further information you can share, including on the composition of the group, whether it will simply transit the area or if there are plans for it to be stationed at a forward base in the region.

*Kerr*



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