



Ministry  
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
FLOOR 5, ZONE B, MAIN BUILDING  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

**ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP**  
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AND  
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

MSU/4/8/1/2/ap

28<sup>th</sup>  
October 2019

Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 30 September 2019 addressed to the Secretary of State for Defence concerning the demolition of properties at Abercorn Barracks adjacent to Ballykinler Training Estate. I am responding as the Defence Estate falls within my ministerial portfolio.

The decommissioning of Abercorn Barracks was announced in the Better Defence Estate announcement of November 2016 and the site was decommissioned in in 2018. Abercorn Barracks are inside the perimeter of Ballykinler Training Centre, and there is ongoing Defence requirement for this training area. Ballykinler Training Centre will continue to provide valuable training assets for both the Regular and Reserve forces within Northern Ireland.

The buildings at Abercorn Barracks are part of a wider estate rationalisation in the Province as part of the Good Friday Agreement. The proximity of the Service Family Accommodation (SFA) to the training estate and the costs associated with providing suitable access points for the training estate resulted in a recommendation to demolish these properties. The SFA referred to in your letter is the final phase of this work. Preparation for the demolition of the buildings has already commenced and is expected to take place before 31 March 2020.

Please be advised, the barracks are being decommissioned rather than disposed of, and the intent is for the Department to retain the land.

I hope this clarifies the Department's position.

Yours sincerely

**ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP**

The Rt Hon Dr Julian Lewis MP  
Chair, House of Commons Defence Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA