



Ministry
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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JEREMY QUIN MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

MSU/4/8/1/2/is

3rd September 2020

Dear Tobias,

Thank you for your letter of 4 August 2020 with its renewed request for a copy of the report into lessons learned from the procurement of the four Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) Tide Class tankers.

I can reassure you that I took the initial request very seriously. My predecessor concluded that the report could not be disclosed. I also sought departmental advice and personally re-read the report specifically with your request in mind before responding. Further careful consideration has now been given to your request to make the report public at this time. It has been concluded that it cannot.

As I explained in my previous correspondence, the report was commissioned by the then Secretary of State and helps inform our assessment of the UK shipbuilding industry and the practicalities of future procurement decisions.

In addition to the important commercial sensitivity rationale for non-disclosure, the report was designed to be a full and frank assessment to assist in the formation of policy: policy that continues to be developed and executed.

I fully expect our decisions and the considerations that shape them to come under scrutiny and I continue to welcome the interest of the Defence Committee on this matter.

I am copying this letter to Meg Hillier, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.

Yours truly

JEREMY QUIN MP

The Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP
Chair, House of Commons Defence Committee
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