



Ministry
of Defence

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4/8/1/2/ap

27 September 2022

Dear Tobias,

I am hugely grateful to the Defence Committee for their inquiry and Report, "The Integrated Review, Defence in a Competitive Age and the Defence and Security Industrial Strategy."

The Report focuses on three important documents that have been published during my time as Defence Secretary that underpin the Government's objectives for the coming decade and the contribution of Defence within it, laying out how Defence will improve and innovate to ensure the UK meets the threats of the future.

As you will understand, these documents focus on areas which have seen significant developments since their publication, some which were foreseen and others which have occurred differently from our original expectations.

Further, the Prime Minister has commissioned an update to the Integrated Review, expected to be published later this year, and reconfirmed the Government's commitment to achieve three percent of GDP on Defence spending by 2030 at the UN General Assembly. I am sure you will note that these announcements align with certain recommendations made in the Committee's report.

Unfortunately the effect of this has been to add additional complexity to the formulation of the Government Response to the Committee's Report. As a result, I must inform you that the Government Response will not be provided to the Committee by the deadline of 28 September.

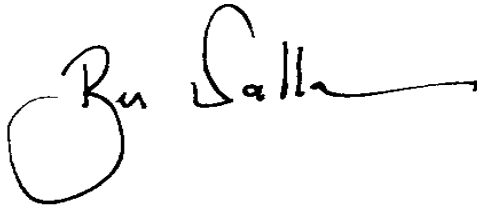
The delay in responding represents our determination to ensure that the important issues highlighted by the Report are addressed as comprehensively as possible and that no opportunity is missed to bring about meaningful and enduring change. In order not to delay this further we shall send the MOD's part

The Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP
Chair, House of Commons Defence Committee
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of the responses in early October and will forward to you the Cabinet Office's input when they are ready.

I am grateful to the Committee for their continued support on this important Defence priority.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Wallace', with a large circular flourish on the left and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

THE RT HON BEN WALLACE MP