



Defence Committee

Chairman, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood

Committee Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

020 7219 6872 / 5857 defcom@parliament.uk

www.parliament.uk/defcom

Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP

Secretary Of State

Ministry Of Defence

Floor 5, Zone D, Main Building

Whitehall

London SW1A 2HB

21 June 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

The Committee have asked me to write to you to follow up on three points raised in the Government Response to the Committee's Sixth Report of this Session (Special Relationships? US, UK and NATO):

- In response to the Committee's conclusion at Paragraph 51, the Department states that it "is pleased that the UK will continue to spend a minimum of 2% of GDP on defence". This is the bare minimum required in light of the current geopolitical and macroeconomic context. Is the Government concerned that UK spending as a proportion of GDP looks likely to be overtaken shortly by Germany and France?
- In response to the Committee's conclusion at Paragraph 92, the Government states that "The UK has been leading work in NATO on industrial capacity and stockpile replenishment following the conflict in Ukraine". We request a note detailing what this leadership has involved and what outcomes the Government has achieved so far.
- In response to the Committee's recommendation at Paragraph 95 of its Report, the Government has addressed skills, but has failed to include any information about trades. In particular, the Government has not provided a response to our recommendation "that the MOD pilot a procurement approach whereby a set



Defence Committee

Chairman, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood

Committee Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

020 7219 6872 / 5857 defcom@parliament.uk

www.parliament.uk/defcom

percentage of apprentices are required to be attached to an acquisition programme". We request a response to that specific recommendation.

Please could you provide a response to these questions by 5 July.

Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP
Chair of the Defence Committee