



# Defence Select Committee

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Thursday, 11 January 2024

**Alicia Kearns MP**  
**Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee**

**Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP**  
**Chair of the Business and Trade Committee**

**Sarah Champion MP**  
**Chair of the International Development Committee**

**Sent electronically (via email)**

**Subject: CAEC draft report**

Dear Chairs,

On 9<sup>th</sup> January the Defence Committee considered a draft report relating to parliamentary scrutiny of arms export controls, which I understand is in identical terms to that agreed in December by the Business & Trade and International Development select committees, and is also due for consideration by the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Defence Committee has decided not to agree the report. The CAEC model, while procedurally and logistically difficult to operationalise, has balanced the different perspectives of the four select committees involved, and ensured through consensus that no one point of view is dominant. At this time of growing global insecurity, a thriving UK defence industrial base needs all the more to be a prime consideration in export control decisions. In our view there is an ongoing requirement for a cross-committee model that offers balanced scrutiny, but one that focuses more on export control decision-making, and that offers less of a platform for interest groups.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon John Spellar MP