



Dear Mr Dhesi,

I am writing to you on behalf of both the manual and staff union at BAE Systems Warton Unit, together we represent around 9000 workers over the two sites of Warton and Samlesbury.

As it stands as I write this letter there are currently no Typhoons being final assembled at Warton site and no orders for any future aircraft, essentially production has stopped for British built Typhoon aircraft. We are becoming increasingly concerned with reports that the Typhoons being retired from active RAF service are to be replaced with American built F35A aircraft, it is important to note that the UK industrial workshare on the F35 programme is not dependent on how many actual platforms the UK acquires. The UK industrial position on the programme is due to the sovereign Intellectual Property and direct investment that the UK brought as a Tier 1 partner so if the UK decides to acquire no more F35s this will not impact the economic return to the UK from the wider programme. This would be a hammer blow to the British aircraft industry and potentially could end the design, manufacture and assembly of fast jets in this country, seriously damaging our sovereign capability; the defence minister, John Healey, recently said "a nation is only as strong as its national industry". This is a sentiment we wholeheartedly agree with. Combat Air should sit at the heart of any new Government industrial strategy – it's an international success story - generating high value skilled jobs, delivering huge economic benefit and creating world leading intellectual property for defence and other sectors.

We would like the British Government to commit to ordering a squadron of 24 Typhoon jets, it must be noted that we are the only partner nation in the Eurofighter consortium that hasn't committed to buying new aircraft. A domestic order will not only fulfil a military requirement for the RAF in these unstable times but will also ensure that vital skills required to build the next generation aircraft, GCAP, are retained at Warton Unit; we have serious concerns that without a domestic order for Typhoon there will be no GCAP due to the loss of the skills necessary to build and fly aircraft. Furthermore we feel a domestic order will give other nations considering buying Typhoon off the UK (Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt and Poland amongst others) the confidence to invest in the platform providing export revenue to the country and ensuring the longevity of our sites.

The Eurofighter Typhoon programme delivers in the region of £2bn per annum to the UK economy, directly employs 6500 people with an additional 14,000 in the supply chain and delivers around £1.6bn - £2bn per annum of export revenue. The original UK Government investment in the programme of £12bn has now returned in excess of £30bn to the UK economy with potentially more to follow.

If you would like any more information or support on this please don't hesitate to contact us; we would also like to invite you to visit our sites in Lancashire to see our facility.

Kind Regards,

Steve McGuinness

On behalf of

BAE Warton Unit AMMSS Joint Shop Stewards Committee

BAE Warton Unit Professional Staff Negotiating Committee