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THE LORD COAKER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

MSU/4/5/1/2

2 December 2024

Dear Rupert,

Launch of the Defence Industrial Strategy Statement of Intent

I am writing to you as Chair of the International Relations and Defence Committee to update you and your members on the progress this Government is making on its manifesto commitment to issue a new Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS); a strategy that will be developed at pace and in parallel with, but independent of, the Strategic Defence Review. The DIS Statement of Intent and consultation, published today, outlines the framework we will adopt and the process we will follow. Importantly, it reinforces our new approach to the defence sector, its supply chain, our workforce and our allies. Defence has a vital role to play in our primary mission to grow the UK economy. As the sector plan for the modern Industrial Strategy, the DIS will bring together the two imperatives of national security and economic growth.

As you will be aware, the UK faces acute and rising threats to our national security: Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine; conflict in the Middle East; tensions in the Indo-Pacific region and rising geopolitical instability. This means we need to: reset our Armed Forces for today and the future; enact a deep reform of MOD procurement; and increase the urgency and co-ordination of our efforts to support Ukraine.

Defence touches many communities across the United Kingdom, and it is our aim to grow a better, more integrated, more innovative and more resilient defence sector. A defence industry that can innovate at speed; with the resilience to deter aggression by our adversaries; able to seize the opportunity presented by the technologies of the future and grow UK exports.

Lord de Mauley
Chair of the Lords International Relations and Defence Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

The case for change is clear: boosting the defence sector will create jobs, grow the economy and spread wealth to every region, whilst strengthening our defences and deterring potential adversaries. Structured around six priority themes, the DIS will set out how we will: prioritise UK businesses; create partnerships; provide certainty and stability; seize the future; spread prosperity; and enhance the credibility of our deterrence.

To shape the DIS, the Government is today launching a comprehensive consultation. We invite all stakeholders to respond to this Statement of Intent, either publicly or privately, by 28th February 2025. We are keen to have input from a wide range of stakeholders including industry, academia, international partners, and those outside of defence, particularly those in the tech sector, SMEs, universities, further education and members of the public. This process will build on existing engagement and input gathered through the Strategic Defence Review and we would welcome views to shape the policies to be developed under each of the six priorities, their implementation and the delivery of the Statement of Intent. Responses should be submitted to the MOD at spodise-indstratgroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk.

We will engage in extensive consultation in the design of a new Defence Industrial Strategy that can deliver the objectives outlined above, with detailed work on institutions, contract criteria, access to capital, early-stage innovation, pipelines and incentives.

I am sure the themes considered within the DIS will feature prominently in your work over the coming months and we must work with you and your committee to develop this strategy. To aid this, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you early in the New Year to discuss this important work. Please contact my Ministerial office who can arrange this.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vernon Coaker". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Vernon" and "Coaker" being capitalized and prominent.

THE LORD COAKER