Ministry of Defence

PERMANENT SECRETARY

[redacted]

D/PUS/11/7/1(06)

Chair of the Public Accounts Committee
Chair of the Defence Select Committee

4 February 2026

Dear Sir Geoffrey and Mr Dhesi,

Thank you for your joint letter of 28 January 2026 regarding the timing of the Defence Investment Plan (DIP). I should say at the outset that I respect the vital scrutiny function that the PAC and the HCDC deliver on behalf of Parliament.

The issues you raise are, of course, critical to ensuring the delivery and success of the vision and commitments we have made through the 2025 Strategic Defence Review and will put into action through the DIP.

The DIP will be an affordable, deliverable, ten-year programme to transform our Armed Forces. Demands on defence are rising, with growing Russian aggression, increasing operational requirements and preparations for a Ukraine deployment. That is why defence budgets are rising to record levels as this government delivers the biggest boost to defence spending since the Cold War, totalling over £270 billion this Parliament alone with a £5 billion boost last year and hitting 2.6% of GDP from 2027.

The DIP is the first zero-based review of Defence's budgets in 18 years and goes significantly further than the last Government's Equipment Plan by looking across every budget line, including people and infrastructure.

I will shortly be appearing in oral evidence sessions before both of your committees in March and I look forward to answering your questions there. While I currently cannot confirm a date when your committees can take evidence on the DIP specifically, we are working flat out to finalise and publish this as soon as possible. We will ensure investment choices are right for both now and the future.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Pocklington

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