



Defence Committee

From the Chair:

Tan Dhesi MP

Tuesday 24 March 2026

Rt Hon Darren Jones MP

Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister at the Cabinet Office

Cabinet Office

70 Whitehall

London SW1A 2AS

United Kingdom

Dear Darren,

Subject: Request to provide evidence regarding the Home Defence Programme

I was disappointed to receive your response to the Committee's request that you appear before us to discuss the Home Defence Programme and the wider facets of your role relating to readiness and resilience. I have spoken with the staff and Chair of JCNSS who have informed me that there is no scheduled evidence session at which you will discuss the Home Defence Programme. Furthermore, your appearance before the Home Affairs Committee on 3 March to discuss a policy relevant to that Committee's remit shows your understanding of the importance of engaging with a range of Committees.

I would therefore ask you to reconsider your decision on whether to appear. The Committee is concerned about the ability of the UK to respond to attack and the implementation of the whole of society approach to security and defence. The decision to disband the resilience directorate and absorb some of its functions into the COBR directorate, alongside the apparent lack of co-ordination between the Strategic Defence Plan and the Resilience Action Plan, adds to that concern. Whilst we appreciate the offer of a briefing at official level, we feel that this is an area where we would benefit from an understanding of the political direction and thinking, something which officials would be unable to provide to us.



Tan Dhesi MP

WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO GIVE YOUR PERSPECTIVE.

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