

MSU/ 4-3-10-4

26 May 2026

I am writing to update you on the important transformation of the INTERFLEX training programme, which has been a cornerstone of the UK's support to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (AFU) since 2022 and one of the most significant multinational training efforts of recent times.

When INTERFLEX was first established, the priority was to rapidly train large numbers of Ukrainian civilians to strengthen frontline forces during a critical phase of the conflict. This approach was highly successful and highly valued by Ukrainian personnel, which has delivered basic and leadership training to over 62,000 recruits, soldiers, and officers.

From the outset the UK's Interflex training programme has drawn strength from cross-party support in parliament, and I thank colleagues of all parties for this.

As the AFU has grown in experience and capability, their needs have also naturally evolved. The Ukrainian Ministry of Defence have requested a more advanced and specialist training to better prepare their forces for complex challenges they now face.

In response, INTERFLEX is transitioning to a new, unified framework that consolidates all UK-led training in the UK and abroad under one coherent programme. This transformation allows us to focus on specialist skills such as operational tactics, medical expertise, engineering, and logistics under the same INTERFLEX banner. After four years of operational success and looking to the next phase of training delivery, this is the right time to amalgamate all UK training efforts under the INTERFLEX banner, not only improving coordination of the training but also improving awareness of the initiative.

By doing so, we are enhancing the quality and operational impact of our support, ensuring that the AFU continues to build the critical capabilities necessary for long-term resilience and success on the battlefield.

In line with the changing requirement of the AFU, the programme will move from standard infantry training to more specialist and advanced training designed to build long term capability. The training that continues will be of higher complexity and

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Chair of the House of Commons Defence Committee

greater strategic value. The programme has already trained over 11,000 Ukrainian instructors who now lead recruit training independently within Ukraine, enabling their international partners to concentrate on areas where our expertise adds the most value.

I want to emphasise that this evolution does not signal a reduction in the UK's commitment. On the contrary, it reflects a mature and sustainable approach to defence cooperation, aligned with the AFU's priorities and the realities on the ground. International support remains strong and coordinated, with the UK and partner nations continuing to provide expertise, instructors, and equipment focused on quality and specialist capabilities.

Looking ahead, the benefits of this transformation are clear. By building long-term specialist skills, such as piloting, medical and engineering, we are helping to ensure that Ukraine's Armed Forces are better equipped to meet future challenges independently and effectively.

I trust this provides clarity on the rationale and importance of the changes to INTERFLEX. The UK remains steadfast in its support for Ukraine's defence and security, adapting our assistance to maximise impact and meet evolving needs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Healey', written over a horizontal line.

THE RT HON JOHN HEALEY MP
Secretary of State for Defence