



Ministry
of Defence



Office of the
Leader of the
House of Commons

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LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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05 June 2026

Dear George,

We are writing to inform you that the Government has agreed to seek to establish a new House of Commons committee to conduct scrutiny of the Defence Nuclear Enterprise expenditure and programmes. This follows a recommendation from the Public Accounts Committee in its 2024 report '*Scrutiny of sound financial practice across Government*'.

This proposed committee would be appointed by the PM, have a tightly defined remit and be subject to the necessary controls to conduct its work in this highly sensitive area, while providing a formal parliamentary outlet for the consideration of relevant National Audit Office reports. The Committee will only meet and hold evidence sessions in private. Its only publication will be an annual report summarising the work it has undertaken, to be agreed with the Government. The Committee's substantive findings will be reported privately to the Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary only, rather than publicly, given the classified nature of the information under scrutiny.

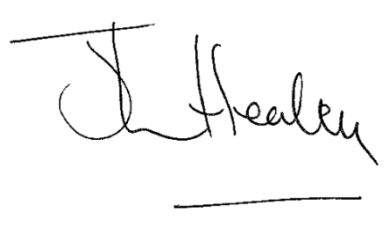
This Committee will help fulfil one of the key recommendations in the recent Strategic Defence Review, to sustain long-term support for the UK's nuclear deterrent by providing the public with the confidence that taxpayer money is being spent wisely on this important and increasingly significant area. The new proposed Committee will also provide the NAO with a more consistent and structured parliamentary outlet for conducting scrutiny of DNE expenditure and programmes, enhancing democratic accountability.

We will work with Parliament over the coming weeks to seek to establish the new committee, including the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government and the committee, as well as a Standing Order to set it up. The MoU will need to be formally agreed with the new Committee once it has been established and must suitably balance the need to protect this highly sensitive

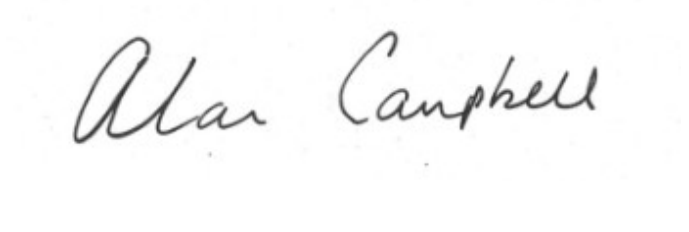
The Rt Hon. the Lord Robertson of Port Ellen KT
Chair, International Relations and Defence Committee
House of Lords
SW1A 0PW

defence information whilst also recognising Parliament's vital scrutiny role. The proposed new Committee will not alter the current role, responsibilities and remit of your Committee or other relevant Committees.

We will keep you updated on the progress of this work and if you would like to discuss any of this in further detail, we would be happy to arrange a meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Healey', with a horizontal line underneath.

THE RT HON JOHN HEALEY MP
Secretary of State for Defence

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Campbell', with a horizontal line underneath.

THE RT HON SIR ALAN CAMPBELL MP
Leader of the House of Commons