



HOUSE OF LORDS

Committee Office

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 7411
hlintlrelations@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building, Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Lord President of the Council
Leader of the House of Commons
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Via email

11 June 2026

Alan

New Defence Nuclear Enterprise committee

Thank you for your joint letter of 5 June confirming the creation of a new House of Commons committee to scrutinise the Defence Nuclear Enterprise (DNE). We welcome the creation of this committee at a time when both the strategic significance and the financial cost of the DNE are increasing, reinforcing the importance of robust parliamentary oversight of taxpayer money.

We recognise that the highly sensitive nature of the information under scrutiny requires particular handling arrangements for the new committee, including the holding of private sessions and the provision of reports directly to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Defence. Notwithstanding these requirements, I would be grateful for your views on how the House of Lords might remain appropriately sighted on this area of scrutiny.

While we are conscious of Commons financial privilege, it is quite proper for the Lords to be involved in scrutiny of matters involving public expenditure, and the House has considerable expertise and experience which could be helpful in this important task. In that context, we would welcome your thoughts on whether and how a suitable mechanism might be developed to facilitate a degree of engagement or information-sharing.

We would welcome a response to this letter within the usual 10 working days.

Yours sincerely,

Robertson

Rt Hon Lord Robertson of Port Ellen
Chair, International Relations and Defence Committee

*(We just saw that John has resigned. His
Successor can help you reply
A.)*