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The Rt Hon Lord Robertson of Port Ellen
Chair of the International Relations and Defence Committee
House of Lords
London
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Ref: AC/NMP1470
25 June 2026

Dear Lord Robertson,

Thank you for your letter of 11 June regarding the proposed establishment of a new committee to scrutinise Defence Nuclear Enterprise expenditure and programmes. We welcome your engagement and response.

Due to the highly sensitive nature of the information the proposed new committee will scrutinise, it is not planned to have powers to work with other committees and share information.

However, we recognise the complementary way in which both Houses contribute to the scrutiny function of Parliament as a whole, and understand there may be benefits of specialist advice from outside the Commons on certain topics under consideration by the committee. We are proposing that the committee has the ability to appoint specialist advisers; these appointments would be at the discretion of the committee, but could be selected from the House of Lords.

Further, we want to reassure that we do not propose asking the Lords to consider changes to the remit of your committee as a result of the proposed establishment of this committee.

We will keep you updated on plans to establish the committee. Thank you again for your letter.

THE RT HON DAN JARVIS MP
Secretary of State for Defence

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