



## Defence Committee

Chair, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP

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Jeremy Quin MP  
Minister for Defence Procurement  
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*Dear Minister,*

Thank you for your Department's response to our report on procurement of Armoured Fighting Vehicles, which we are publishing today, together with this letter.

I have to say that the Committee is not entirely reassured by the response. We have particular concerns in the following areas:

- The apparent lack of urgency in closing current capability gaps in areas such as Air Defence and Tube Artillery;
- The effectiveness of Challenger 2;
- The potential risks in the Challenger 3 programme;
- The dependence of the UK's capability in the land domain on Digital Spine and the successful implementation of LETacCIS;
- The decision taken, as part of the Integrated Review, to cancel the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme (WCSP) without a fully costed programme to provide an effective Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV); and
- The timely delivery of the Mechanised Infantry Vehicle (MIV)/ Boxer programme.

We would therefore be grateful for answers to the following questions:

1. How will you address the gap in Air Defence and Tube Artillery capability pending the successful execution of the programmes mentioned in your response?
2. What are the key risks in the MIV, Challenger 3 and LETacCIS programmes and how are they being addressed with the relevant contractors?
3. Will the WCSP / IFV capability be fulfilled by an alternative? If so, when will that alternative be defined?

We would also be grateful for briefing notes, and six-monthly updates thereafter, on:

- Challenger 3;
- LETacCIS;
- Mechanised Infantry Vehicle;
- The Close Support Fires Programme, and the Land Deep Fires Programme (LDFP);

- Land Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD); and
- Implementation of the Land Industrial Strategy.

*Yours sincerely,*

*PP MRHeda*

**Rt Hon. Tobias Ellwood MP  
Chair of the Defence Committee**