

DAVID WILLIAMS, CB



PERMANENT SECRETARY

D/PUS/11/7/1(143)

27 July 2021

Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP
Chair, House of Commons Defence Committee

Sent electronically

Dear Tobias,

MAIN ESTIMATES 2021-22

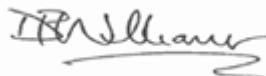
Thank you for your letter of 6 July 2021.

I share the importance that you attach to proper scrutiny of the Department's spending plans and apologise for the timing of the explanatory memorandum for this year's Main Estimates. It is also important that the memorandum is thoroughly reviewed with the Department so that Parliament can have confidence in the information it contains.

Exceptionally this year, the Department needed to work through the consequences of the 2020 Spending Review settlement and the Defence Command Paper, while adjusting to my arrival as Accounting Officer at the start of the financial year.

We will do better in future, as we work on Supplementary Estimates later this year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Williams", with a horizontal line underneath.

DAVID WILLIAMS