

D/PUS/11/1/174

02 November 2021

DAME MEG HILLIER MP

Chair of the Public Accounts Committee

Sent electronically

Dear Chair,

UPDATE ON IMPROVING SINGLE LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

In the Committee's report on improving single living accommodation (SLA) for service personnel¹, you asked the department to write setting out progress after six months against two of the report's recommendations – raising the priority of SLA and delivering the SLA management information system (SLAMIS).

Raising the priority of SLA

The Defence Accommodation Strategy will provide the framework for subsequent work that aims to improve the lived experience of Service personnel in SLA. The strategy, which it is planned to publish in December this year, will focus attention on defence accommodation with four key principles to concentrate the department's effort:

- ensuring Service personnel have access to homes;
- improving the quality of accommodation;
- making best use of our accommodation;
- and working towards greater sustainability.

The strategy will seek to outline a new minimum standard for SLA and a timeline of how we will gather the information required about our SLA estate to ensure a data-driven approach to future decisions on investment and management of SLA. The strategy will be driven forward through delivery plans that are being written by the frontline commands and Defence Infrastructure Organisation and through further definition of technical standards which underpin the overarching SLA minimum standard when published. This will allow for a flexible approach to SLA across the services, enabling each service to respond to its own challenges. I will write to the Committee again around the time of the strategy's publication to further explain the changes set out in relation to SLA.

¹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/5577/documents/55322/default/>

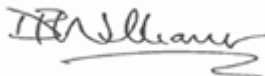
The Chief of Defence People is also now established as the senior sponsor for SLA and taking an active role to enhance coherence across policy, delivery and single Services stakeholders whilst maintaining clear demarcation and accountability from frontline commands.

Delivering SLAMIS

Pilot activity of SLAMIS commenced in August 2021 and is expected to complete by the end of 2021 with the declaration of Initial Operating Capability (IOC) across all the functional requirements. On declaration of IOC, the project will have delivered a fully functional suite of software tools. The pilot site, HMS Excellent at Portsmouth, has already adopted SLAMIS fully and the project will then progressively roll the capability out across all 197 target sites through 2021 and 2022. This will involve training, data cleansing and, in some cases, reorganisation of unit accommodation management functions.

This roll-out will be complete for the majority of sites by the end of 2022, by which time the system will be fully operational and beginning to deliver benefits. The Project will have transitioned to a steady state running by March 2023.

Yours sincerely,

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

DAVID WILLIAMS