



## Defence Committee

Chair, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP

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Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP  
Secretary of State for Defence  
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*Deputy of State*

Thank you for your letter of 4 November, in which you set out some of the actions you are taking in response to the Committee's report "Protecting those who protect us: Women in the Armed Forces from Recruitment to Civilian Life", which have had the incidental effect of further delaying the Department's response to the report until the end of November.

Of course we welcome the seriousness with which you are addressing the issues highlighted in the Report and your determination to bring about real change. However, we are concerned by the continuing delay to the response, which was due in September, and the impression this is giving to many of those who gave evidence to our inquiry. We would urge you to set a firm date this month for publication of the response, in order to reassure women, both serving personnel and veterans, that effective changes will happen.

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

**Sarah Atherton MP**  
**Chair of the Sub-Committee**  
**on Women in the Armed Forces**