



Ministry
of Defence

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MSU 4-5-1-2

20 December 2021

Dear Tobias,

I recognise and welcome the Defence Committee's interest in the upcoming National Shipbuilding Strategy (NSbS) Refresh, particularly as part of your ongoing enquiry into the Royal Navy: purpose and procurement. I therefore wanted to provide you with an update on the timescales for publication.

Although I had planned to launch the NSbS Refresh by the end of this year, due to significant emerging Government priorities the decision has been taken to postpone publication until early in the New Year. I have answered a Parliamentary Question from the Rt Hon Member for Durham North to update the House, but wanted to write to you personally to ensure the Defence Committee are aware.

I would like to reassure you that this decision does not reflect a change in this Government's shipbuilding ambition. Shipbuilding is firmly recognised as an industry which is critical to levelling up and our national security, and which drives investment and prosperity across the UK. The NSbS Refresh will therefore outline how Government will set the conditions of success across a range of key enablers. I can also assure you that the National Shipbuilding Office (NSO), announced earlier this year, is already working across Government to ensure Departmental activity aligns with our vision for a globally successful, innovative and successful UK shipbuilding enterprise.

I look forward to discussing the NSbS Refresh with you once published and thank you again for your continued engagement.

THE RT HON BEN WALLACE MP

The Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP
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