



Defence Committee

Chair, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP

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Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
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Dear Secretary of State,

You will be aware of the report in today's *Daily Telegraph* of an amendment to US budget legislation to ban new deployments of US planes in countries with at-risk vendors in their 5G or 6G networks. If passed, this would preclude the long-planned USAF deployment of F35s at RAF Lakenheath and could also bring into question the plans for HMS Queen Elizabeth to carry US Marine Corps F35s.

I am sure you agree with me that even the airing of such disagreements between us and our closest security ally is unhelpful in a time when global stability is at the lowest it has been for a generation. I should therefore be grateful if you could clarify what the Government is doing to ensure that this initiative is not pursued further.

pp Yours sincerely,
Tobias Ellwood

Rt Hon. Tobias Ellwood MP
Chair of the Defence Committee