



Ministry  
of Defence

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RT HON JAMES HEAPPEY MP  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

4.8.1.4

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Dear Pete,

I was grateful for the opportunity to brief the Scottish Affairs Committee on HMG's Defence Contribution to the North Atlantic and High North region on 5 June. During the evidence session I agreed to write in follow up on three points.

Firstly, Christine Jardine MP raised a question regarding ice capable vessels and I agreed to confirm which NATO countries have icebreakers (Q210). Several NATO Allies and partners have ice breakers or ice capable vessels, either within their navies, coastguards or other such authorities. These include Canada, the US, Finland, Sweden, the UK, France and Germany.

Secondly, Dr Philippa Whitford MP raised a case regarding a funding award for earth observation of deforestation (Q249-252). The Department for Science Innovation and Technology and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs are the lead Departments for space and deforestation respectively and best placed to update Dr Whitford MP. The Parliamentary team in the Ministry of Defence have already passed them Dr Whitford's enquiry, and I am sure that they will reply promptly. Please let me know if they don't.

Thirdly, Deidre Brock MP asked for an update on a previous inquiry regarding the Royal Navy Armament Depot (RNAD) Coulport (Q255). Neale Hanvey MP tabled a topical question on 7 November 2022 which can be found at <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-11-07/debates/3B0DCBA2-8A33-463D-87EF-8790F115922B/RadioactiveMaterialDalgetyBay> regarding an alleged leak at Royal Navy Armament Depot (RNAD) Coulport. The Secretary of State wrote to Mr Hanvey on 10 January 2023 to confirm that no such event had occurred nor had any serious radiation breaches occurred at His Majesty's Naval Base Clyde or RNAD Coulport. A copy of this letter was placed in the Library of the House and can be found here:

<https://depositedpapers.parliament.uk/depositedpaper/2284925/details>.

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