



Ministry of Defence

Our Ref: TO2021/05863

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Ms Angie Zelter, Mr Brian Larkin,
Mr Mark Morgan and Mr David Mackenzie
on behalf of Trident Ploughshares
Via email: lazybeds@yahoo.co.uk

1 July 2021

Dear Ms Zelter, Mr Larkin, Mr Morgan and Mr Mackenzie,

Reference A: TO2021/03397 dated 26 April 2021.

Thank you for your email to the Prime Minister, dated 17 May 2021, expressing your disagreement with the substance of the letter you received from the Defence Nuclear Organisation Secretariat at reference A, regarding nuclear aspects of the Government's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, published on 16 March 2021. We have been asked to respond on his behalf.

Your views on the Government's approach to maintaining the United Kingdom's (UK) independent nuclear deterrent and meeting our international obligations have been noted. However, the Government's position on the facts provided previously remains extant, despite your disagreement with the stated points.

In reference to the point you make to receiving correspondence from an anonymous source, it may be of interest to know, there is no obligation to release personal information into the public domain. Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, requests for personal information would be withheld under the exemption provided for at Section 40. As we work on sensitive issues which prompt very strongly held views, for our own personal security we apply this principle to correspondence with all individuals outside of government and exercise our right to privacy by not personally signing correspondence. We hope you will understand and respect our position on this point, irrespective of the differing positions we hold on the requirement to maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Nuclear Organisation Secretariat