From the Chair, Rt Hon James Arbuthnot MP

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building, Floor 5, Zone D
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

2nd April 2014

Dear Philip,

The Committee recently met with representatives from the Security in Complex Environments Group regarding the role of private security companies and their relationship with Government Departments, particularly the Ministry of Defence (MoD). We would be grateful if you could provide answers to the following questions on matters that arose at the meeting:

- What contact, and at what level, has the MoD had with the Security in Complex Environments Group and what plans it has for future contact?

- What level of accreditation would the MoD expect private security companies to have before using their services? (for example the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers, PSC 1 or ISO 28007)

- What is the current policy of the MoD on the use of private security companies?

- In what areas does the MoD currently make use of private security companies?

- What do the MoD see as the potential advantages and challenges in the use of private security companies?

- What areas do the MoD consider have the potential to be outsourced to private security companies and what areas are currently under active consideration for outsourcing?

- What is the MoD’s guidance on the interaction of the Armed Forces with private security companies and how is this monitored?

- What is the relationship between private security companies and Defence Intelligence Services and what measures exist for collaboration and sharing of intelligence?
• What plans are in place to consult the Security in Complex Environments Group, and private security companies more generally, in the development of the next Defence and Security Review?

I would be grateful if you could provide answers to these questions by Monday 28 April.

Yours ever

[Signature]

CHAIR