From the Chair, Rory Stewart MP

Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP,
Secretary of State for Defence,
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Release of MoD Radio Spectrum

My predecessor wrote to your predecessor about the sale of 200MHz of MoD’s radio spectrum usage rights in October 2013. At that time, we understood that OFCOM would conduct the sale in the financial year 2015-16. We would like to know what progress has been made on the preparation for the sale and whether the plans and timing has changed. Your predecessor told us that the MoD had been allotted a fixed sum from the likely sale receipts as part of its Spending Round 2013. We would be grateful if you could confirm whether this arrangement still stands and in which year the money falls. We would also like to know whether the MoD has been allocated any further sum and if the sum concerned is in addition to the normal settlement.

We recognise that the receipts from the sale cannot be linked to specific expenditure but we remain concerned by the impact of the “three year pause” which stopped all upgrade work on Service Families Accommodation and Single Living Accommodation from April 2013. In our inquiry on accommodation, we found that the cuts under ‘the three year pause’ would result in increased expenditure in the long term and had already impacted on the morale of Service personnel and their families. Would you please inform us if you have found any additional money to reinstate the upgrade work on accommodation?

CHAIR