Dear Anna

I am writing on behalf of the Welsh Affairs Committee to seek a meeting with you about the use of the St Athan site in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Committee recently met the Joint Chief Executive Officers of Cardiff Aviation Ltd, an aviation maintenance company which operates from a former RAF maintenance base at St Athan. The company has grown considerably, without government financial support, since its creation in 2012. With the right conditions, Cardiff Aviation plans to expand and create a further 500 to 600 jobs in South Wales.

Committee Members were concerned to learn that Cardiff Aviation’s business was potentially at risk due to several restrictions in the way it could operate, particularly: (1) a lack of 24-hour access to the runway; (2) the need for use of an Instrument Landing System; and (3) the need for a paint hangar. I understand that the Ministry of Defence could assist in each of these matters.

I am sure you appreciate the aviation sector is hugely important to South Wales, accounting for 20% of the UK’s aviation sector. I believe it is important that government helps create the right conditions for new businesses to succeed, particularly in parts of the UK, such as Wales, where there is slower economic growth and higher than average unemployment.
I hope you can meet Committee Members, on an informal basis and in private, to discuss this matter in greater detail. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

David T.C. Davies

David T.C. Davies MP
Chair, Welsh Affairs Select Committee