



Defence Committee

Chairman, Rt Hon Dr Julian Lewis MP

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Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
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2 February 2016

Dear Michael,

Type 45 Destroyers

The reports of engine failures in the Type 45 Destroyers and the announcement of the refit programme appear to reflect a far more serious matter than “equipment reliability issues” as described last year by MoD Ministers.

The Committee wants to gain a better understanding of the impact this refit will have on the operational effectiveness of the Type 45 class. Therefore, we would be grateful for a detailed assessment of the problem and the MoD’s plans to resolve it.

Relating specifically to the problems with outages and breakdowns, the Committee wishes to have further information on:

- The cause of the problem, and when it first appeared.
- The number of outages and breakdowns which have occurred.
- Whether the root cause is due to component failure, build failure or a design failure.
- Whether or not problems were identified during the sea trials and before the contract was signed off.
- Whether there were changes to the specifications during the build.

The Committee also would like further information on how this problem will be resolved, who will be liable for the costs of the refit and how long it will take to complete the refit across the Type 45 class.

Finally, the Committee would like to have an understanding the number of Type 45s which will be unavailable for operations, at any one time, during the refit programme

*Yours ever,
Julian*