On 6 June last year your predecessor replied to my letter about the Defence Fulfilment Centre (DFC) in Donnington, which is intended to act as the central hub for the storage and distribution of Defence’s £30 billion inventory. He was confident that the Centre was due to become fully operational in March 2019: as we have heard nothing more about the Centre, we would be grateful for a further detailed update on the progress made, particularly on the following points:

1. Is the DFC now fully operational? If not, what are the reasons for the delay and when do you now expect it to be operational?

2. What tasks are currently undertaken by the DFC and how have these changed since your predecessor’s response?

3. What are the detailed capital, and staff and running costs of the DFC to date and anticipated future costs, and how do these compare to the budget?

4. The Department originally stated that the DFC is expected to “streamline distribution and storage, and deliver savings of around £500 million by 2028”. What progress has been made on achieving the anticipated savings and how do you plan to realise any outstanding savings?

5. The DFC is part of the Logistic Commodities and Services Transformation programme. Please provide an update on the programme, including timelines, performance indicators, anticipated costs and savings, and details of the facilities that are involved.

It would be helpful to receive your response by Wednesday 24 April.

Yours sincerely,

Julian