Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

26 June 2019

The Defence Committee has asked me to write to both candidates in the Leadership election on the question of future UK Defence expenditure. As you will know, this used to be between 4.5% and 5% of GDP in the Cold War years of the 1980s and remained at 3% or above until the mid-1990s.

The Committee has long campaigned for a short- to medium-term increase in Defence spending to 3% of GDP. We were, therefore, encouraged by your pledge to increase the Defence budget by a quarter over the next five years, following the earlier suggestion in your Mansion House speech last month of even larger increases over the next decade.

We should be grateful if you would flesh out this commitment by indicating when you would expect Defence spending to reach our recommended level of 3%, and what your initial priorities are in applying such extra resources effectively.

Naturally, we are making this correspondence available to the press and other media, and we look forward to a prompt response.