Dear Stephen,

Following publication of the Ministry’s Supplementary Estimates for 2018-19, the Committee has considered the expenditure plans they contain. As a result, I would be grateful if you could please provide a response to the Committee by 24 April to the following questions:

1. Can you provide a breakdown of the additional funding sought in the Supplementary Estimates for MoD operations; how much was spent in Afghanistan, Wider Gulf, Counter Daesh, and in the Deployed Military Activity Pool (DMAP) and Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), and how do these totals compare to the final budget contained in the Supplementary Estimate 2017-18?

2. We note that there has been a 1.7% increase in budget for service personnel costs, and a reduction of 9.9% in the budget for civilian personnel costs; are these changes starting to reflect the personnel plans outlined in the MoD’s Modernising Defence Programme, or other drivers of spending?

3. There has been an “uplift of £285 million to the RDEL Administration Cost Regime budget within the RDEL boundary”. It appears this is due to the transfer of the Submarine Defence Agency and Warhead to the core budget of the department; why does this require such a change in classification, and what is the impact on the workstream?

The Committee has noted the steps your department has taken to comply with the new guidance issued by the House of Commons Scrutiny Unit, following the Procedure Committee’s Estimates inquiry in 2017. We are pleased at the progress you have made to date in adopting these changes and encourage you to maintain dialogue with the Scrutiny Unit and ensure that you continue to apply the requirements set out on the Scrutiny Unit’s webpage in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Julian