



Defence Committee

Chairman, Rt Hon Dr Julian Lewis MP

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Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP

Secretary of State

Ministry of Defence

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Dear Gavin,

The widespread public concern at the official response to the Gatwick drone crisis and the engagement of Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA) is shared by the Defence Select Committee. This concern has of course been exacerbated by the incident at Heathrow. We would therefore be grateful if you could clarify whether your Department had an adequate contingency plan for unauthorized, and potentially threatening, drone activity at the UK's civilian airports (and indeed at military air bases). We would also welcome an update on what discussions you have had on these issues with NATO allies. If you believe that planning was adequate, please explain the breakdowns in implementation at Gatwick and set out what lessons have been learned, including about coordination between Government departments. The Committee are considering whether to conduct formal hearings on this matter of considerable public interest, and your early response will help our deliberations.

Yours sincerely,
Julian

