



Home Office

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Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee

House of Commons

SW1A 0AA

27 July 2017

Dear Yvette,

**POST IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW OF THE CHANNEL TUNNEL
(INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2012**

I write to inform you of the findings of a Post Implementation Review of the operation of Cyclamen at the port of Coquelles.

Cyclamen is a Home Office capability and key feature of CONTEST, the UK's cross-government counter-terrorist strategy that uses a combination of equipment to screen vehicles, containers, freight and pedestrians for the presence of illicit radiological and nuclear materials at UK points of entry. On behalf of the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, Border Force deploy specially trained staff to monitor Cyclamen screening equipment and conduct follow-up examinations when an alarm is activated.

The impact of a terrorist attack using a radiological or nuclear device could be catastrophic, resulting in a devastating loss of life and costing potentially billions of pounds to the UK economy. We know that some terrorist groups have aspirations to acquire chemical, biological and radiological capabilities and the threat of an attack using these materials on the UK mainland could increase rapidly and without warning. This is why the Home Office invests in Cyclamen via a dedicated programme informed by the latest scientific and technological research and conducts regular risk assessments to ensure the deployment of the capability is aligned to the threat.

In April 2012 the Prime Minister-chaired National Security Council (Nuclear) conducted a fundamental review of the Cyclamen capability. Council members agreed a series of priorities to enhance Cyclamen which included a direction to complete the installation of the capability in the French Terminal of the Channel Tunnel at Coquelles.

The purpose of the Channel Tunnel (International Arrangements) (Amendment) Order 2012 (“2012 Order”) was to transpose into UK domestic law an Agreement between the UK Government and French authorities to install and operate Cyclamen at this location. The 2012 Order enables the screening of vehicles, their contents and passengers and sets respective roles and responsibilities for investigating alarms and for taking any further action where required.

When the 2012 Order was originally implemented it contained at Article 7 a requirement for the Government to review this arrangement after five years had passed and to set out and publish the conclusions of that review. We have now carried out the first review.

To meet this requirement the Home Office conducted an internal review and consulted with the Atomic Weapons Establishment who support the operation of the capability and act as the Government’s threat advisor on radiological and nuclear matters. The Home Office also consulted with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy which has an interest in security policy for nuclear and radioactive materials.

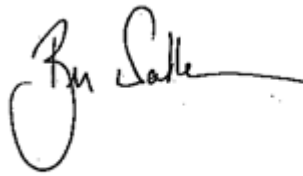
This internal review and consultation has confirmed that Cyclamen is an effective first line of defence against the illicit importation of radiological and nuclear materials and should remain in place at Coquelles for the foreseeable future. The operation of Cyclamen at Coquelles means that a significant volume of freight and tourist traffic is routinely screened before entering the UK and its presence at this location acts as a deterrent against our adversaries.

The Home Office has also considered the cost implications of the Cyclamen operation at this location on UK business. We believe these costs to be negligible. The capability is fully funded and operated by the Home Office and the screening process – as well as any enhancements - are designed to minimise the impact on

legitimate travellers and trade. We believe that the minimal impact on business of Cyclamen and its clear security benefit mean that this short report is proportionate.

I am therefore recommending that the 2012 Order should remain in force without amendment. A further review will be conducted in five years' time.

A copy of this letter and review will be placed in the House Library.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP