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PQO-HOC-Qstn 905775/ap 3 July 2018

Dear Philip,

During Defence Oral questions on 11 June 2018, you asked about a Parliamentary Question (147312) answered by the Minister for Defence People and Veterans on 7 June 2018 concerning the number of contractors MOD had employed for over one year and five years, and paid over £1,000 per day (Official Report, column 590).

The term contractor is generally used in the Ministry of Defence to mean contingent labour, consultants or anyone who is not a crown servant. The Department does not maintain centrally details of all contractors.

Departments, in their Annual Report and Accounts, are required to disclose the number of Senior Off-Payroll Officials working in their respective departments on the 31 March each year who earn more than £245 per day for a period greater than 6 months. There were 131 individuals who have been engaged for more than one year, of these three have been engaged for more than five years.

Senior Off-Payroll Officials are best described as individuals engaged on a temporary basis to fill recognised posts, predominantly due to skill shortages or unique skills only required occasionally, not making it cost effective to acquire and maintain those skill sets in house.

The Department intends to publish the 2017-18 Annual Report and Accounts before the July 2018 Parliamentary recess. Within the Senior Off-Payroll information we expect to report that as of as of 31 March 18 there were 14 individuals earning over £1,000 per day.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.



**THE RT HON GAVIN WILLIAMSON CBE MP**