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Dear Tony

During the SS "Richard Montgomery" question for short debate on Wednesday 3 July, you asked whether any assessment had been made into what could happen if a vessel were to strike the wreck.

Officials have advised me that this has been considered, but that the effects of such a strike would depend on multiple factors. These would include the size and weight of the vessel, the angle of impact and weather conditions. The fact that the wreck sits in such shallow water does mean it is unlikely that larger vessels would reach the wreck, limiting the type of vessel that could strike the wreck and potential effects.

I am sure you understand that there can be no definitive answer. We are extremely mindful of the risk that the wreck poses and as I set out in the debate, management of the wreck of the SS Richard Montgomery raises many complex issues. We are committed to ensuring that all of the action we take is with the safety of those in the area in mind, and will continue to actively monitor the wreck, whilst we continue to also consider longer-term options.

I hope this letter addresses the point you raised. I will also place a copy of this letter in the House library.

With best wishes

Diana

BARONESS BARRAN

Lord Berkeley
House of Lords