Dear John,

During Oral Questions on 14 January on Defence Nuclear Infrastructure, you asked a question on the historical funding arrangements for the UK's nuclear deterrent capabilities.

I can confirm the UK's nuclear deterrent capabilities have been funded by the defence budget since their inception, and it is right that the nuclear deterrent continues to be funded from such. Following the decision in 2007 to retain the UK's nuclear capability, additional funding was provided by Her Majesty's Treasury to the Defence budget and a commitment made by the then Government that this would not come at the expense of conventional military capability. Since 2010, the Ministry of Defence has balanced the costs of the renewal of the deterrent with conventional capabilities within the whole defence budget, and the programme is fully funded. You may find it of interest that there is a research briefing paper in the Library of the House "The cost of the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent" covering the history of UK deterrence funding.

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

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Annabel

BARONESS GOL DIE DL

Rt Hon Lord Reid of Cardowan
House of Lords
London
SW1A OPW