

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

THE RT HON BARONESS GOLDIE DL MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

PQLO/19-21/2020/04787

4 June 2020

Dear Baroness Smith,

During the Oral Question on NATO cooperation on 19 May 2020, you asked for an update on the work the United Kingdom has done with our NATO allies to look at biosecurity threats.

NATO tackles biosecurity threats as part of its wider programme of activity on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear defence, known as CBRN. The UK actively participates in the NATO Civil Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC) and its Joint Health Group (JHG). These bring together Allied military, health ministry and national public health institute representatives to plan, prepare and exercise in a coordinated way for responding to CBRN type events. Each country is required to plan to these common NATO standards and any lessons learned to inform our own national planning and preparedness.

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

Vours suicevely, anendel Ser hocie

BARONESS GOLDIE DL

Baroness Smith of Newnham (LD) House of Lords London SW1A 2AB