



Ministry
of Defence

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

MSU/4/4/2/11/is

24 February 2020

Dear Rupert,

Thank you for your letter of 17 February 2020 (Annex A) about the Tailored Review of the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations (RFCAs).

As I said during the parliamentary debate on 27 January 2020, it is not appropriate for me to comment in detail on the findings and recommendations of the Review while the report remains in draft.

I am advised that you and Maj Gen (Retd) Greg Smith recently met the MOD Permanent Secretary, Sir Stephen Lovegrove, the Chief of Defence People, Lt Gen Nugee, and other senior responsible officials to put across your views in order that Defence has a full understanding of the strength of feeling throughout the RFCA network. I am further advised that, at that meeting, the Permanent Secretary gave you his assurance that the Executive Committee (ExCo) would be given all the detailed information they would require to make an informed decision on the Review.

In addition to these assurances from the Permanent Secretary, please accept my personal assurance that the ExCo will have sight of your representations and the transcript of the debate – in order to make an informed decision on the future structure and relationship between Defence and the RFCAs.

ExCo is due to consider the RFCA Review on 27 February, after which my ministerial colleagues will be informed of its conclusions and the proposed way ahead. We will of course, also inform the CRFCA of the next steps following this meeting. I understand that, on current plans, publication of the report is intended for the week commencing 9 March.

I look forward to the RFCAs and their champions, such as the many Lords Lieutenant who have been in contact throughout the Review process, engaging constructively with us to take forward the actions that the ExCo recommends. I believe such constructive engagement can only strengthen the good relationship between Defence and the RFCAs, and ensure the many mutual benefits we derive from that positive relationship continue.

I am placing a copy of my letter and the attached Annex in the Library of the House.

*Yours sincerely,
Annabel Su Goldie*

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Annex A attached.