



**Ministry
of Defence**

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Dear Bob,

I undertook to write to you in answer to your question in the House during the Urgent Question on Afghanistan on April 20th, when you asked me what will be done to encourage farmers to develop products and crops rather than feeding the illegal drugs trade, which has caused so much damage not only to the region but to the rest of the world?

We are considering a wide range of programmatic options to support economic development and promote peace and security. All such interventions need to be planned carefully to ensure that they are done in a conflict sensitive way and are supported by clear evidence of their effectiveness. The UK also supports the government of Afghanistan to tackle the enablers that facilitate the drugs industry and strengthen law enforcement cooperation with the UK, in order to disrupt narcotics production and trafficking.

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



JAMES HEAPPEY MP

Bob Blackman MP
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