



Ministry
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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JEREMY QUIN MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

PQN/21-22/2021/6270/is

06 September 2021

Dear Zarah,

Following your Parliamentary Questions on the 15 June, I promised to seek further information and write in due course. While I was keen to provide as full an answer as possible, given that officials have moved on and the group has not met for several years, our information may be incomplete.

I have consulted with the Department, and have been informed that the Gulf Advisory Group was an informal group started by the Rt Hon Lord Astor (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence from 2010-2015) as a means of gathering respected authorities to provide complementary advice and insights to inform Ministers on diverse issues in relation to Gulf state allies.

It was continued by the Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP, Minister for Defence Procurement from 2012-2016, and his successors. We have found evidence of six meetings between 2015 and 2018 (details at Annex) with the last invitation being circulated on 12 Sept. 2018. There has been no further gathering of this group since. There are no records of meetings held before 2015 as calendar data prior to this time was not migrated during an upgrade of MOD IT systems.

While there was no standing attendees list, and no record of who attended, the invitation for the last recorded meeting (Sept 2018) was sent to HMG Officials and the following external invitees:

Lord King of Bridgwater
Oliver McTernan
Baroness Patricia Morris of Bolton
Earl of Home
Sir Charles Masefield
Tim Ryan
Sir Geoffrey Tantom
Rt Hon Lord Astor
Tim Robinson

Zarah Sultana MP
House of Commons
London
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Enclosure

Other external invitees also previously included:

Richard Paniguian
Arthur Denaro
Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Symons
Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank
Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Soames

The agenda for the meeting consisted of regional updates from across HMG followed by a topical discussion. As this was an informal group, there were no standing Terms of Reference nor formal minutes taken.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JEREMY QUIN MP

Annex

Dates for Gulf Advisory Group:

14/01/2015

28/06/2016

01/03/2017

07/09/2017

14/12/2017

12/09/2018