

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

MSU/4.8.1.1

1 February 2022

Dear Michael,

During Grand Committee on 17 January 2022 regarding the AUKUS Information Sharing Agreement, you asked if due consideration had been given to the 1958 Mutual Defense Agreement (MDA) in taking this work forward.

I can assure you that due consideration has been given to the UK-US Agreement for Co-operation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes of 1958 (MDA).

As you identified, paragraph 3.2 of the explanatory memorandum that accompanied the AUKUS Information Sharing Agreement notes that:

“...Exchange of naval nuclear propulsion information is restricted under US domestic law and can only be disclosed to foreign nations where an appropriate agreement is in place. The [MDA], as amended, also prevents the UK and US from disclosing restricted naval nuclear propulsion information to other countries unless specifically authorised. This Agreement therefore provides the necessary basis to share naval nuclear propulsion information in support of the 18-month programme.”

The UK and the US have agreed to authorise the disclosure of information to Australia as envisaged by the MDA and as such it does not need amendment. This is reflected in the parties' entry into the AUKUS Information Sharing Agreement, which facilitates sharing that information with Australia for the purposes of this stage of the programme. The AUKUS Information Sharing Agreement does not preclude the UK and the US from continuing to exchange information under the MDA (please see Article IV(B) of the new agreement and paragraph 4.3 of the explanatory memorandum).

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

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

Yours sincerely,  
Annabel Su. Goldie :

**BARONESS GOLDIE DL**