



Ministry  
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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**ALEX CHALK KC MP**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

PQ 140032 & 140033

4 April 2023

Dear John,

I am writing to you following the Question (UIN 140032) that you tabled on 6 February 2023, about the proportion of UK steel used in the Type 31 and Type 26 Frigates. I indicated that no steel had yet been purchased for Batch 2.

Further enquiries have disclosed that a small quantity (of approximately 994 tonnes) of Long Lead Item steel was purchased for the first Batch 2 ship, HMS Birmingham, in 2022. 25 percent of this steel was produced in the UK.

994 tonnes represents approximately 3.5 percent of the total tonnage of Batch 2. The UK steel in Type 26 comprises thicker plate and sectional steel.

I can confirm I have asked for a correction of this inadvertent error to be made to the Official Report and a copy of this letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

**ALEX CHALK KC MP**

The Rt Hon John Healey MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

## **Annex A to PQW/22-23/2023/01596-01597**

### **CORRECTION TO THE OFFICIAL REPORT**

An error has been identified in the Parliamentary Question response given to the Rt Hon. Member for Wentworth & Dearne (John Healey) on 13 February 2023 to Question Numbers 140032 and 140033.

The answer given was as follows:

13 February 2023

John Healey (Wentworth and Dearne) (Lab)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of the steel procured for each Type 26 frigate is from UK steelyards. (140032)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of the steel procured for each Type 31 frigate is from UK steelyards. (140033)

Minister for Defence Procurement (Alex Chalk)

For the Batch 1 Type 26 frigates, almost 50 per cent by value of the steel is UK sourced. Steel has not yet been purchased for the Batch 2 ships.

Steel for the Type 31 frigates is sourced by Babcock from UK-based stockists. Both the Type 26 and Type 31 classes require the use of thin plate steel and this specification of steel with the required combination of thickness, size and flatness is not manufactured in the UK.

Steel for our major defence programmes is generally sourced by our prime contractors from a range of UK and international suppliers and is procured in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines. We encourage the sourcing of UK steel wherever it is technically and commercially feasible.

The correct answer should have been:

Minister for Defence Procurement (Alex Chalk)

For the Batch 1 Type 26 Frigates, almost 50 per cent by value of the steel is UK sourced. Approximately 994 tonnes of steel was purchased for the first Batch 2 ship, HMS Birmingham, in 2022 and 25 per cent of this steel was produced in the UK.

Steel for the Type 31 frigates is sourced by Babcock from UK-based stockists. Both the Type 26 and Type 31 classes require the use of thin plate steel and this specification of steel with the required combination of thickness, size and flatness is not manufactured in the UK.

Steel for our major defence programmes is generally sourced by our prime contractors from a range of UK and international suppliers and is procured in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines. We encourage the sourcing of UK steel wherever it is technically and commercially feasible.