

BARONESS GOLDIE DL
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

4/8/1/1/ap

29 September 2023

Dear Christopher,

During the Lord Soames debate on the role of the Armed Forces and the UK's Defence Policy on 7th September 2023, you asked about steps HMG is taking to regain our readiness stockpiles post-war in Ukraine. You also asked by extension if British Forces would be in a state of readiness to deter Russian aggression, particularly in the Baltics and Poland.

As I have previously confirmed in the House, the UK has placed a number of substantial contracts to directly replace munitions Granted in Kind to Ukraine. The contracts secured so far include orders for Next Generation Light Anti-Tank Weapons; Starstreak High Velocity Missiles; Lightweight Multirole Missiles; Javelin missiles; Brimstone missiles; 155mm artillery rounds; and 5.56mm rifle rounds.

In addition to the direct replenishment contracts listed above, I can confirm that contracts worth over £285m have been placed since March 2023, in support of maintaining and indeed increasing stockpile levels through investment with industry. This includes air counter-measures, small arms, and various missile types. Additional resilience measures are in progress with further contracts expected in due course, as supported by HMT funding.

With regard to the Baltics and Poland, our commitment to Article 5 of NATO is backed up by modern, credible forces which act to deter against aggression. Specifically, the Army will continue to lead the multinational Enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup in Estonia and will provide the land component of the Very High Readiness Joint Taskforce in 2023 and, in 2024, the land component of the inaugural Allied Reaction Force.

I hope this explains the position.

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

*Yours sincerely,
Annabel Su. Goldie*

BARONESS GOLDIE DL

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