

JAMES CARTLIDGE MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

Ref: 195726

17 November 2023

Dear John

On 11 September 2023 I promised to write to you following your written Question 195726, To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the (a) original and (b) current in service date is of the Spearfish upgrade programme.

The Spearfish Upgrade Programme will sustain underwater tactical fight capability through an upgraded Spearfish Heavy Weight Torpedo into in-service Astute and Vanguard class submarines.

The latest planned In-Service Date (ISD) of September 2023 was successfully achieved. The original ISD was baselined to 31 January 2022, but due to unforeseen delays, this date could not be achieved.

It is UK policy that we do not comment on matters relating to submarine maintenance as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness, or security of our Armed Forces. Therefore, it is not possible to provide further detail on the nature of the delay in achieving ISD.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,



JAMES CARTLIDGE MP

The Rt Hon John Healey MP
House of Commons
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