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of Defence

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Dear Henry,

Thank you for your contribution during the Oral Statement on Ukraine on 22 February regarding strengthening Ukraine's air defences. I committed to writing to you to provide more detail.

The UK has provided Ukraine with thousands of short and long-range air defence systems and missiles, including six Stormer vehicles fitted with Starstreak missile launchers and Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) to protect their citizens, front line, and critical national infrastructure. In December 2023 I announced a further package of around 200 air defence missiles to re-supply UK-developed air defence systems.

The UK also continues to galvanise international support, with £900M having been pledged to the UK-established International Fund for Ukraine (IFU), to assist Ukraine in critical areas, including air defence. All contracts from the second Urgent Bidding Round Air Defence package announced by Defence Ministers on 13 June 2023 have now been signed and the first systems, including radars and air defence canons, have been delivered. Furthermore, the third Urgent Bidding Round, focused on air defence and maritime capabilities, has now closed and a period of assessment is underway.

With regards to Poland the UK's Sky Sabre Ground Based Air Defence capability has been deployed in Poland since April 2022 and is an essential part of a layered Integrated Air and Missile Defence that protects both Rzeszow-Jasionka Airfield and Polish airspace more broadly. We keep the requirements for Sky Sabre under constant review, in close consultation with the Polish Ministry of Defence, and are currently considering extending its deployment beyond March 2024. In addition, to the Sky Sabre capability, the UK also deployed four Typhoon Jets to Poland in October 2023, to help bolster Polish Air Defence in the run up to the Polish General Election.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

THE RT HON GRANT SHAPPS MP

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I've recently extended Sky Sabre use in Poland to end of the year FY1