



Ministry  
of Defence

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THE EARL OF MINTO  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

MSU/4/8/1/1/is

20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

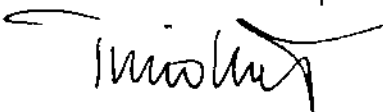
Dear Ruth,

During the AUKUS debate on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February, you raised the issue of departmental oversight for AUKUS.

The Ministry of Defence is the lead department responsible for AUKUS delivery, supported across Whitehall to reflect the scale of the national endeavour. The Defence Secretary has overall ministerial responsibility for AUKUS. The Permanent Secretary, David Williams, is the Senior Responsible Owner for AUKUS, overseeing both Pillars One and Two, supported by a dedicated team as well as officials across Whitehall working on aspects of AUKUS as part of their wider roles.

It is also important to note that, in the two and a half years since the AUKUS announcement, new governance and organisational structures have been created to support programme delivery. This includes trilateral governance structures, as well as the establishment of the UK Programme Delivery Office (structured across the Defence Nuclear Organisation, the Royal Navy, and the Submarine Delivery Agency) and the Australian Submarine Agency. The Defence Secretary and his Australian and American counterparts also meet at least once a year on a trilateral basis to review progress.

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

Yours sincerely  


THE EARL OF MINTO

Baroness Anderson of Stoke-on-Trent  
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