



Ministry
of Defence

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

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5, ZONE B, MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

June 2024

Our ref: HL4885

Your ref:

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question (UIN HL4885) of 22 May 2024, asking about His Majesty's Government's role in providing funding for commemoration events in Northern Ireland to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. You will recall that I responded on 24 May to advise it had not been possible to respond to your question in the time available before Prorogation. I would like to take this opportunity to provide some advice from the Ministry of Defence.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is the lead Department for the Government's National UK D-Day 80th anniversary and is working across Whitehall and with external stakeholders to lead a programme of official commemorations in the UK and in France, ensuring our Normandy Veterans are the VIPs for this significant anniversary. The MOD does not hold the level of detail you have requested about funding provided to individual Councils in Northern Ireland. However, I can confirm that on 6 June, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland plans to attend events at Lurgan War Memorial and Enniskillen Model School.

You may be interested to know that the UK's National Commemorative Event in Portsmouth, Southsea Common, will once again highlight this nation's major contribution as a leading partner in the Western Alliance. The programme will commemorate the service and sacrifice of all who fought under British command on D-Day, by honouring our veterans, securing their legacy within our youth and demonstrating the UK's global role in defence and security alliances. The event will host an audience of 4,000 and be broadcast live on BBC One.

A snapshot of the larger events hosted by the British Government and its charity partners taking place in France can be found attached, for your interest; these are in addition to the French national programme.

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

Yours sincerely

THE EARL OF MINTO

Lord Weir of Ballyholme
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA