



Ministry  
of Defence



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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**PENNY MORDAUNT MP**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

Our ref: D/Min(AF)/PM MC2016/03190e

10 April 2016

*Dear Fiona,*

Thank you for your email of 11 March, on behalf of your constituent, regarding Early Day Motion 987 and the transport of nuclear weapons.

I should like to start by assuring your constituent that the safety and security of both nuclear convoys and of the public are given the highest priority. The transport of nuclear materials is carried out in accordance with stringent safety regulations, using custom-designed equipment that provides robust protection; any movements are kept to the minimum necessary to meet operational requirements. In addition, routes are carefully selected and regularly re-assessed for their continued suitability, which includes taking account of road and weather conditions in the planning and execution of movements. Further details about the measures in place to protect the public and safeguard convoy operations can be found in the Local Authority and Emergency Service Information (LAESI) document available at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emergency-services-information](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emergency-services-information).

In over 50 years of transporting defence nuclear materials by road in the UK there has never been an accident that has posed any risk to the public or the environment. The limited movement of defence nuclear materials together with our robust security procedures and inherent safety features mean that an accident during transport that could result in the release of radioactive material is extremely unlikely.

Nevertheless, in accordance with the requirements of UK legislation and Ministry of Defence policy, we maintain comprehensive arrangements to respond to any incident, no matter how unlikely, through the Defence Nuclear Emergency Organisation (DNEO). The DNEO has robust and well-established procedures in place with local authorities and emergency services and we regularly conduct multi-agency exercises to ensure the effectiveness of the collective response. If your constituent would like to read more about these arrangements, further details are also available in the LAESI document mentioned above.

**PENNY MORDAUNT MP**

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