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Thank you for your letter dated 10 June to Peter Luff concerning future plans for the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) at Bicester.

I can well appreciate the frustration your constituents working at the Bicester depot must have felt over the lack of clarity on the future of the depot. It is, of course, vital that, through their Trades Union representatives, we consult with the workforce on how the DSDA organisation might change to best provide the operational effectiveness needed to support our Armed Forces while achieving the greatest value for money. This was the point Peter Luff highlighted in his response to your recent Parliamentary Question, (Hansard extract attached), where he explained that, in relation to the future of DSDA, the recommendations of the Treasury-led Operational Efficiency Programme on the work of the Agency are being considered in consultation with the Trades Unions.

I am sure you would not wish me to pre-judge the outcome of these consultations and I would ask for your constituents' forbearance while these discussions continue.

I note your related concern over the use of defence land and can assure you that the MOD carefully manages its estate to ensure it is the right size, quality and is fit for purpose. Therefore, when any land becomes surplus to MOD requirements, it is classified as brownfield land and is disposed of as swiftly as possible and in accordance with the guidance set out in the Treasury rules relating to managing public money.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful at this stage but I will write again when we are in a position to announce a decision.

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