



RT HON MARIA EAGLE MP
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT & INDUSTRY

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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4.6.3/4.6.5.2

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Dear Nick,

Further to our meeting on 22 January to discuss the planning application for the construction of the Sunnica Solar Farm in your constituency, the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) decision not to object to this as part of the consultation process and whether this would impact the Department's activities, I promised to review both the decision and the process followed by Officials to ensure this was fit for purpose and the interests of the Department were protected.

As you are aware the MOD was a consultee as part of the statutory planning consultation process for the proposed development of an energy farm called Sunnica, the MOD reviewed the proposals to determine if there would be any impact on Defence. Other consultees, such as the Health and Safety Executive, would also have had the opportunity to review the proposal and the responsibility for considering all of the responses and making a final decision would sit with the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

The MOD raised no objection to the proposed Sunnica Solar Farm consultation, and subsequently, MOD Officials have reviewed the planning criteria under which the proposed solar farm was assessed and are content that these are suitable to ensure that MOD's interests were considered and protected. As a result, the decision by the department not to object to the solar farm remains unchanged.

Overall responsibility for the planning process does sit with MHCLG and any concerns regarding the criteria under which any applications are assessed should be addressed to that Department.

Nick Timothy MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

I can assure you as part of this process, the relevant Subject Matter Experts were engaged, and no objections to the proposed solar farm were raised by any party, which included the users of the nearby MOD sites. As I am sure you can understand the MOD cannot object to developments just on the possibility that there may be an impact to Defence activities should a specific chain of events occur.

I trust that this explains the position.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Eagle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maria" written in a larger, more prominent script than the surname "Eagle".

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