



Ministry  
of Defence

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**THE RT HON TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP**  
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AND MINISTER  
FOR DEFENCE PEOPLE AND VETERANS

MSU/4/6/2/1/ap

14 March 2019

I am writing to you regarding the closure of RAF Scampton and the relocation of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, which I announced in the Better Defence Estate Update to Parliament on 24 July last year.

The Red Arrows are the world's premier aerobatic display teams and thus their relocation has, understandably, generated significant interest. Work has been ongoing to determine the most suitable future home and to ensure that they can continue their vital work in showcasing the skills and values of the RAF, supporting British industry, assisting in defence diplomacy and aiding recruitment for the Armed Forces.

I can now confirm that we have currently identified three sites that could be a potentially suitable future location for the Red Arrows. I am pleased to confirm that RAF Wittering within your constituency is one of these sites, along with RAF Leeming and RAF Waddington.

The Department will now be carrying out detailed studies to assess the suitability of the sites as a potential basing solution. In tandem with this work, the RAF are liaising with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) with a view to designing and allocating the airspace that the Red Arrows require in order to conduct display training. I can assure you that the RAF will be collaborating with key stakeholders in your local area to further refine the design of this airspace, as part of the formal CAA Airspace Change Process. It is not possible to say where this airspace will be located until this process has concluded.

I will write to you again once there have been significant developments in the process.

Yours sincerely

**THE RT HON TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP**

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