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JEREMY QUIN MP MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

MSU/4/6/1/is

18 May 2020

Dear Shailesh,

Further to the letter you received from the Minister for Defence People and Veterans on 14 March 2019, I am writing to provide an update regarding the relocation of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, from RAF Scampton.

As you will be aware, the planned relocation of the Red Arrows from RAF Scampton has, understandably, generated significant public interest. Since March last year, when RAF Wittering in your constituency was identified as one of three potential options, work has been ongoing to determine the most suitable future home for the team.

Following a recent safety assessment, RAF Leeming and RAF Wittering were deemed not to be viable locations. RAF Waddington has been identified as the most suitable option for the Red Arrows, with the current airspace over RAF Scampton continuing to be used for training

I know that you have made a number of personal and persuasive representations to bring the team to RAF Wittering, and I understand this will come as disappointing news to you and your constituents. This news will be made public information tomorrow, and I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to refrain from making any public statements from your constituency office until then.

I would like to thank you for your support during this process and to assure you that the RAF remains committed to its links with your constituency.

Yours sincerely,

JEREMY QUIN MP

Shailesh Vara MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA