



Ministry
of Defence

JEREMY QUIN MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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3rd March 2020

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your email of 6 February 2020 on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
regarding his concerns with access to Ash Ranges. As the Minister responsible for the Defence Estate, I am grateful for the opportunity to provide you with an update on this situation.

Whilst I appreciate your constituent's concerns on this matter, vandalism and criminal damage at Ash Ranges has recently escalated and resulted in the temporary closure of the ranges. The range could not be used for five days, which disrupted military training. The health and safety of service personnel and the public is a priority for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and something the Department takes very seriously. It is important to remember that MOD land is not public land and military requirements take precedence.

I appreciate the strength of feeling amongst the local community on this matter and in response to the ongoing anti-social events at Ash Ranges, the Department will be meeting with Ash Parish Council to discuss potential options to address this issue. The aim will be to ensure that the safety of the ranges is not compromised while working towards an appropriate course of action which may also benefit local residents.

Thank you for taking the time to write, and I trust that the above clarifies the Department's position.

Yours sincerely


JEREMY QUIN MP

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
House of Commons
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