



Ministry  
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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**JAMES CARTLIDGE MP**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

Our ref: MC2023/04807  
Your ref: MG27092

23 May 2023

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 April 2023, on behalf of your constituent regarding a locked pedestrian gate that is preventing public access to the new Phase 2b area of Ash Ranges. I am grateful for the opportunity to respond.

Firstly, I can confirm that the pedestrian gates within the perimeter fence at Ash Ranges were locked during the time in question due to safety reasons. Please accept my apologies for any confusion caused by the response from the Landmarc Operatives on the Range when questioned on this matter; the information they provided was inaccurate.

At present, despite flags being down due to no live firing, maintenance still needs to take place on the Range and the Range Access Road is the main access point. During this maintenance period, it is unsafe for members of the public to be on the Range Access Road due to large maintenance vehicles, and while safety checks are taking place. For these reasons, the pedestrian gate needs to remain locked.

The Department is currently awaiting the installation of a further gate between the Range Access Road and Corridor, which should be in place by the end of May 2023. When this gate is installed, the pedestrian gate can be opened to allow flexible and safer access to the new 'Phase 2' track, when the flags are lowered, even when maintenance is taking place.

In the meantime, I can confirm that the pedestrian gate in question will be opened when the flags are down and when there is no maintenance between now and the installation of the new gate.

Yours sincerely,

**JAMES CARTLIDGE MP**

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
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