



JEREMY QUIN MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

MSU/4/6/1/ap

25 August 2021

Dear Michael,

Further to our meeting on 21 July 2021 with regards to the Ash Ranges Technical Area (TA), I wanted to write again in respect of the impact of vandalism on the site, on cost and training.

The figures set out below have been carefully reviewed to strip out costs related to vandalism on Ash Ranges not specific to the TA. These figures therefore relate solely to the TA (including its perimeter fencing). The figures are from 2017, prior to which we have no recorded incidents of vandalism in the TA.

Ash Ranges (Technical Area) Cost & Lost Firing Hours due to Vandalism (01 January 2017 - 31 March 2021)					
Year of Vandalism	Total Cost (£)	Firing Hours Lost	Location/Type of Vandalism	Total Cost (£)	Firing Hours Lost
2017	13,655.00	4,384	Buildings	8,188.44	
2018	52,681.00	3,600	Fence & Signage	9,811.20	
2019	18,979.71	5,616	General	5,255.00	3,736
2020	9,598.12	1,176	Plant and Machinery	45,466.00	1,024
2021 (up to 31 March)	3,072.26	48	Range Lanes & Targetry	29,265.45	10,064
Grand Total	97,986.09	14,824	Grand Total	97,986.09	14,824

In addition to the impact of vandalism there is a genuine concern from the perspective of risk to the general public in allowing open access to an area close to a large population given that the TA contains hazards that could present a significant risk.

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
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I appreciate the strength of opinion on this issue locally which you have made repeatedly clear in our numerous engagements. I am aware that similar concerns are also being voiced by your constituency parliamentary neighbours on behalf of constituents; including raising concerns in relation to the proposed Bye-Law Review.

While in the circumstances it is very hard to mitigate the issues raised around the TA closure, I can assure you that I am very aware of the strength of opinion and the desire of local residents and the Army to maintain what is a long and very positive neighbourly relationship. I hope the table is helpful by way of background and I have no doubt that we will speak again on the broader issue.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JEREMY QUIN MP