



Ein cyf/Our ref:FM -/00290/15

Y Cynghorydd Dyfed Edwards, Y Cynghorydd Dewi Owen

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Dear Dewi Owen

I am writing in response to your letter on the UK Government Trident Replacement Programme and the motion passed by Gwynedd Council on 5 March.

We had a passionate debate on Trident in the Assembly on the 25 March, despite it being a non devolved matter, at which many different views were expressed. A strong, integrated defence policy and a seamless and effective defence capability are vital to the security of the United Kingdom and that is why the responsibility remains at the UK level.

The Welsh Government is supportive of the call for additional investment in services to support the people of Wales especially the vulnerable but it is important to note changes in the budget of the Ministry of Defence do not automatically result in changes to Welsh Government funding. There are no guarantees the funds saved by not renewing Trident would automatically increase investment in public services in Wales.

While the international community has yet to remove nuclear weapons from the planet, it remains important for the UK to pursue a policy on multi-lateral disarmament and non-proliferation. There are strong and differing views and a serious debate needs to take place on the UK defence requirements during the period up to the next strategic defence and security review which will examine all capabilities, including nuclear.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carwyn Jones', written in a cursive style.

**CARWYN JONES**