



Ministry
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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JEREMY QUIN MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

Our ref: D/Min(DP)/JQ MC2020/06296e

30 June 2020

Dear Ranil,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 June 2020, on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] regarding his further concerns with fencing and public access on the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Estate.

The Bramshot fence and the gate referred to by your constituent were erected by Hartland's Village Developer, and not by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). The fence/gate were erected to delineate the Defence Training Estate from the area to the east which has been re-designed as a 'Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space' (SANGS) in accordance with the Government's environmental legislation.

The track leading to the gate to which [REDACTED] refers is a hard-surfaced track and had been metalled in the past. Unfortunately, this track has been used for illegal activities on the Defence Estate, such as quad-biking and fly-tipping and the new gate will prevent vehicular access for these anti-social activities. However, DIO officials are currently discussing with the Developer options for adding a small gate which would allow pedestrian and cycle access to the Defence Estate.

I appreciate your constituent's view regarding the importance of the track to the local community, and it's the MOD intention that the track will form part of the proposed network of permissive routes on the Defence Estate. It is certainly not the MOD's intention to limit the track's use for lawful purposes.

The new section of Long Valley fencing referred to by [REDACTED] was erected following a request by employees at the Air Accident Investigation Board who live in Aldershot and to cycle to work. The new fence allows Rushmoor Road to be re-opened to cyclists while military training is conducted on the Long Valley Defence Training Area. There are two gates along the new 800 metres of fencing.

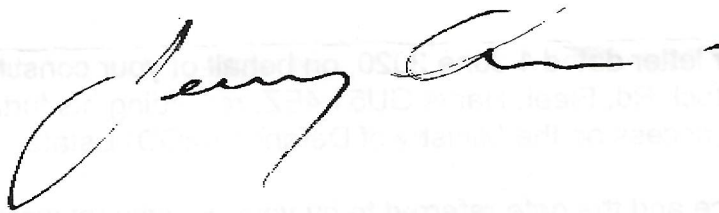
[REDACTED] proposal for erecting 5 new gates at specific points along the Long Valley fence is noted, however, there are no public rights of way in these areas. As you will be aware, the MOD grants permissive access through existing gates when the Training Estate is not being used for military training.

Ranil Jayawardena MP
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However, it is the MOD's intention to include foot gates at various access points and work has been commissioned to address this issue, although Covid-19 restrictions has currently delayed progress. I can however assure you that officials have been directed to ensure that existing gates are open for public access to Long Valley when it is not in use for military training.

I trust this reassures your constituent.

Yours sincerely,



JEREMY QUIN MP

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