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**THE CABINET OFFICE  
LONDON SW1A 2AS**

**3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020**

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy (IR) dated 7 July 2020.

Due to the need to focus on COVID-19, the Government paused work on the IR between April and June. The review - now formally restarted - will be closely aligned with the recently launched Comprehensive Spending Review, to ensure that departments are equipped with the resources they need to enact the review's conclusions.

Working within the constraints created by COVID-19, since we restarted the review, colleagues across government have heard from stakeholders through a series of online meetings and workshops, interviews and written submissions, and through use of our diplomatic network.

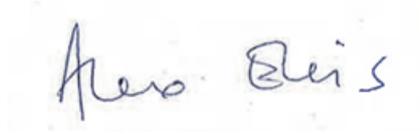
We will continue to use these mechanisms as we develop our thinking over the course of the review, so that external voices and expertise feed into the review's conclusions, and challenge traditional Whitehall assumptions and thinking as we define our ambition for the UK's role in the world, and set the country on the best possible trajectory to recovery from COVID-19. External contributions will help us to expand, and will form part of, the evidence base upon which the review's conclusions will be drawn.

Noting your interest, and with thanks for highlighting your Comparative Study of European and North American National Security Strategies and evidence submitted to the Defence Select Committee, I have flagged with colleagues across government, and in particular in the Department for International Development, your offer to engage.

We will also provide more dedicated content about the Integrated Review on GOV.UK in due course, which we will update over the course of the review.

If you have any further specific points which you wish to make, it is best to feed them in via the FCO or DfID, with whom we are working closely. Alternatively, you can e-mail them to [irteam@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:irteam@cabinetoffice.gov.uk).

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Alex Ellis  
Deputy National Security Adviser - Integrated Review