Dear [Name],

Thank you for your email of 5 April where you requested the following information:

the minutes from all meetings of the Defence Growth Partnership since it was established in December 2012. If minutes are not available, I would like the date of the meeting, as well as a list of those present (with names and positions for politicians and senior officials, and positions for those to whom Section 40 exemptions are applied).

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

While Government announced in December that the DGP group would be established and jointly chaired by Michael Fallon (Minister of State for Business and Enterprise) and Steve Wadey (Executive Group Director, Technical and Managing Director UK of MBDA), the DGP group has not yet met.

However, please find enclosed a copy of a note from the meeting of the two co-chairs held on 8 January 2013.
Some information constitutes personal data and has been withheld. Section 40 of the Act provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act. Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful and must comply with one of the conditions in Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act. We do not think that it is fair to release the names of junior members of staff and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

Appeals Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to the Security & Information Rights Unit at:

Security & Information Rights Unit  
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

E-mail: foi.requests@bis.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely
Meeting with MBDA  
8 January 2013

Attendees
Steve Wadey, Head of MBDA UK
Howard Borrington, Director of Government Affairs, MBDA
Michael Fallon, Minister for Business and Enterprise
Huw Walters, Head of Aerospace, Marine and Defence
[Redacted S40], Defence and Marine Team
[Redacted S40], Minister’s Private Secretary

MF started by thanking SW for agreeing to co-chair the Defence Growth Partnership and said that he hoped the DGP would follow the success of the AGP and Automotive Council. MF recognised that it will be a challenge to align the CEOs of the big companies and that building a long term partnership takes time, but that both he and Philip Dunne were happy to support where necessary.

SW’s initial plan for the DGP was a 2 stage approach:

Stage 1 – Based on the vision statement “X% growth of the Defence Sector contribution to the UK economy by 2030”, the first 3-6 months would be spent determining what figure should be inserted at ‘X’, as well as establishing the key barriers and enablers to achieving this figure.

Stage 2 – Move to implementation stage, with plans for a high-level paper setting out progress to date and next steps.

MF agreed that this approach was sensible and liked the focus on barriers and enablers for growth. HW also commented that over the next 2-3 years, the industry is facing restructuring across Europe, so this work would put the UK in a stronger position.

Regarding dates for the launch of a high-level strategic vision paper, possible events were: an event 1 year on from Farnborough or DSEI in September, which is the UK’s major defence exhibition in 2013.

As a first step, SW will host a dinner on Monday 14 January with 6 key figures from the defence industry and start to agree the contribution, orientation and membership of DGP. HW will also attend this dinner. Following the dinner, SW would look to set up a Steering Committee (with a maximum of 14 companies) and a Strategy Working Group underneath this.
The criteria for involvement in the DGP was:

- Companies who have a strategy to sustain or grow skills and IP in the UK
- Companies who have made a material contribution to the UK’s defence sector
- Individuals with a track record for contributing and supporting this kind of initiative.

SW explained that nationality of the parent company has deliberately not been included in the criteria. SW thought that it was important to have robust criteria to pin down and be defensible, but that it was also important to ensure that the doors were open to new entrants.

MF asked SW to keep him informed on how Government could help, but within the context of no additional funding available.