



Defence  
Infrastructure  
Organisation

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Date: 28 February 2019

Mrs Helen Briggs  
Chief Executive  
Rutland County Council  
Catmose, Oakham  
Rutland LE15 6HP

Dear Helen

**Defence Estate Optimisation Programme - Update**

The Minister for Defence People and Veterans, Tobias Ellwood MP, today provided Government with an update on the Defence Estate Optimisation Programme which included changes to the dates for certain projects. The changes have been made following further assessment work and agreement on Defence priorities.

The final vacation and disposal of St George's Barracks will now be delayed until 2021 from 2020, although it is our intention to continue with our current pre-sale activity and bring the site forward for sale and development as close to the original programme as far as possible, this could include phasing of land release where appropriate.

We remain committed to the disposal of the site, and the new date gives us an optimum timeline to bring forward redevelopment proposals that are right for Rutland and to continue working closely together on agreeing the future use of the site.

For your wider awareness, today's announcement also confirmed that the Defence Estate Optimisation Programme, which was mobilised in 2016 to deliver the MOD's long-term strategy to optimise the estate to meet future military requirements, to date has released 12 sites. The programme is a key priority for Defence and we will be investing £4Bn over the coming years to create a smaller, more modern and capability-focused estate by 2040.

The ongoing constructive dialogue with your officers and other stakeholders will continue as already established, but if you would like to discuss the announcement in more detail or have any queries then please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Stone  
Head of Estates  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation