



# Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Ref. 4389402

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Mr Mark Stone  
Chief Executive  
Vale of White Horse District Council  
135 Eastern Avenue  
Milton Park  
Oxfordshire, OX4 4SB

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

Dear Mr Stone,

## **DALTON BARRACKS AND ABINGDON AIRFIELD**

In 2016, as part of the “A Better Defence Estate” announcement, the Secretary of State for Defence identified Dalton Barracks and Abingdon Airfield as surplus to Defence requirements and indicated that they would be disposed of by 2029.

Dalton Barracks and Abingdon Airfield have since been identified by the Vale of White Horse District Council as a proposed Strategic Development Area (SDA) in the emerging Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 2. The combined site will deliver at least 1,200 homes within the plan period (to 2031) and a total of circa 4,500 new homes in the longer term.

I wrote to you on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to confirm that the initial phase of development could commence from 2025 while the MOD remains in occupation of the main barracks site.

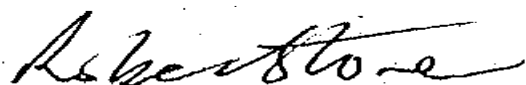
The Secretary of State for Defence remains committed to the announced date. The House of Commons Disposal Register should be updated in due course to reflect this commitment.

As part of the MOD’s process of estate rationalisation, it is proposed to consolidate the current units at Dalton Barracks with similar military functions elsewhere on the MOD estate. A capacity study has been undertaken on the proposed re-provision sites, which included confidential discussions with the relevant Planning Authorities. The study concluded that the proposed re-provision sites are suitable to accommodate the needs of the current occupants of Dalton Barracks.

On the basis of the development trajectory and phasing plan contained within the updated Delivery Document (June 2018), I am confident that the site can deliver 1,200 homes by 2031. This will include the delivery of circa 750 homes whilst the barracks may still be fully operational.

The Secretary of State for Defence and the Army via our advisers are committed to ensuring that all operational requirements are properly considered as the development proposals are fine-tuned and once the development commences on-site. I am confident that this will ensure the timely delivery of housing while the main barracks site remains operational.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Stone'. The script is cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Stone  
Head of Estates

CC. Maj General Richard Wardlaw OBE (Director Army Basing & Infrastructure)