



Ministry of Defence

THE RT HON ANDREW ROBATHAN MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

MSU/04/8/2/4/DH

5 March 2013

Dear Mr Powell,

Thank you for your letter of 6 February 2013 to the Secretary of State referring to the petition to the National Assembly for Wales from Mabon ap Gwynfor which states that "The First Minister Carwyn Jones has said that the UK's nuclear fleet (Trident) would be more than welcome in Milford Haven if an independent Scotland decided that they were no longer welcomed there. We oppose having these WMDs in Wales and urge the Welsh Government to oppose the idea of allowing the UK's nuclear fleet to move to Wales."

In your letter you write that the Petitions Committee would like to know if there any plans to discuss the issue of the basing of the UK's ballistic missile submarine fleet in the future in light of the forthcoming referendum on Scottish independence. The Government's position is clear. The UK Government supports Scotland's place in the UK and we are confident that the people of Scotland will agree. We are not making plans for Scottish independence and we have no plans to move the nuclear deterrent from HM Naval Base Clyde. There will be no negotiations with the Scottish Government of any kind on arrangements for separation before a vote.

I hope this letter has been helpful in explaining Government policy.

Yours faithfully,
Andrew Robathan

THE RT HON ANDREW ROBATHAN MP

Mr William Powell
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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