

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

11th November 2016

Dear Constituent,

RE: NUCLEAR DISARMOURMENT

Thank you for contacting me about the abolition of nuclear weapons and the Open Ended Working Group.

The UK did not attend the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nuclear disarmament in Geneva and, along with the four other Non-Proliferation Treaty Nuclear Weapons States, voted against the resolution establishing the OEWG at the UN General Assembly First Committee. The Government believes that productive results can only be ensured through a consensus-based approach that takes into account the wider global security environment.

The UK is widely recognised as the most pro-active of the nuclear weapon states on nuclear disarmament. The Government remains committed to maintaining a minimum credible deterrent and believes that our nuclear arsenal is the smallest of the five Nuclear Weapon States as recognised by the Non-Proliferation Treaty. We have reduced our nuclear forces by over half from their Cold War peak in the late 1970s and the number of deployed warheads on each submarine from 48 to 40 last year; we are also reducing our overall stockpile to no more than 180 warheads by the mid-2020s. The UK possesses around 1 per cent of the total global stockpile of approximately 17,000 nuclear weapons.

In addition, the UK plays a leading role on disarmament verification with the US and Norway and continues to press for key steps towards multilateral disarmament, including the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and successful negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.