



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
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Dear Secretary of State

RMB Chivenor

On 26 November I asked you a question in the House of Commons about the planned closure of Royal Marines Base Chivenor in my constituency. I am grateful for your agreement to meet me again and for the opportunity to reiterate the strength of feeling in our community.

It is now more than year two years since the Ministry of Defence announced plans to close RMB Chivenor. I arranged a visit by your predecessor, during which he agreed to review the decision. But, more than two years later, there is still no final announcement. It means huge uncertainty for the local area, fuelled by rumours and counter-rumours. This has to stop. We need a firm commitment now that Chivenor will remain open.

The base has been part of our community for more than 70 years. To lose it would not only hit everyone who lives and works there, but would seriously impact our local economy. And in these uncertain times, surely we shouldn't be closing an important military and defence establishment?

It is my firm view, and that of many councils, business groups and individuals in our community, that RMB Chivenor should not close. Please end the uncertainty and announce a reversal of this decision with the minimum possible delay.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Heaton-Jones MP
Conservative, North Devon

Cc: Cllr Des Brailey, Leader of North Devon District Council