



Ministry of Defence

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12th August 2014

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your kind letter of 20 July welcoming me to my new post. I am delighted to have been chosen by the Prime Minister to succeed Philip and am very much enjoying the new challenges. The breadth and diversity of issues is huge; some were familiar, some I was peripherally aware of, and some are new to me – the wreck site of HMS Victory (1744) falls into that category.

Your letter paints a picture of the frustration you have felt during the long discussion with the Ministry of Defence and Department for Culture, Media and Sport. As I read myself into the issue I note that the Government has maintained throughout its position that whatever is agreed must be consistent with our heritage policies, which themselves reflect the good practice set out in the Annex to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.

To that end I am encouraged that significant progress has been made this year, coincident with the involvement of Lord Astor and Ed Vaizey.

Officials are continuing to work on this issue and I am assured that comprehensive advice will be available in early September, at which point I hope to be able to write to you with positive news about this interesting project.

Yours etc.

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THE RT HON MICHAEL FALLON MP

Lord Linfield

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