

From: [George Williams](#)
To: [Committee, JSCFADT \(REPS\)](#)
Cc: [Winsome Hall](#)
Subject: RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL] JSCFADT Invitation to appear at a public hearing - Friday 09 Dec 22
Date: Friday, 9 December 2022 7:55:27 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Joint Committee Members

Thank you for allowing us to give evidence as part of the hearing today.

We are writing to elaborate upon our response to Mr Andrew Wallace MP's question regarding how many times the UK convention to seek parliamentary approval before deploying the armed forces has been used. We are aware of three clear instances of this occurring since the convention was crystallised in the UK Cabinet Manual in 2011:

- In 2013, in relation to the proposal that the UK join the US in military action in Syria. The Cameron government held a vote on 29 August 2013 seeking parliamentary approval for this military action, which failed: see [UK Hansard extract](#) from 29 August 2013.
- In September 2014 and again in December 2015 the Cameron government sought parliamentary approval for military action against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, respectively. Both votes succeeded. See [UK Hansard extract](#) from 26 September 2014 and [UK Hansard extract](#) from 2 December 2015.

We were also asked to respond there should be a defence-related PJCIS-like committee of the Parliament. We support the idea. It would be a useful and important adjunct to formalising the role of Parliament in being consulted and approving the deployment of force overseas. The PJCIS has been a successful, bipartisan model for intelligence issues, and extending this model to a new committee in the defence realm would be welcome.

Kind regards

George

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