

**Ministry of Defence**

Wednesday 09 September 2009

**Gisela Stuart MP (Birmingham, Edgbaston) (Lab)**

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NAMED DAY WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the adequacy of the provision of helicopters for use by British armed forces on operations in Afghanistan. (290663)

Bill Rammell MP

(Holding reply Wednesday 09 September 2009)

I have regular discussions with my Rt Hon Friend the Foreign Secretary about all aspects of the campaign in Afghanistan. We continually monitor the level of helicopter provision and make adjustments based on the requirements of our military commanders. For example, between November 2006 and April 2009 we increased the number of airframes by 60 per cent and the number of flying hours by 84 per cent. As well as sharing coalition helicopters, we lease hundreds of hours each month from commercial operators for routine supplies.

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