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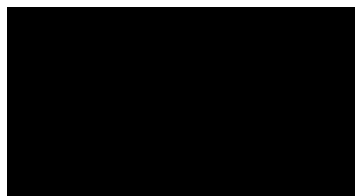
11 April 2023

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your invitation to Kate Forbes in her former role as Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy to the steelcutting ceremony for the fourth Type 26 frigate, HMS Birmingham, that took place on 04 April.

Please accept my apologies that we were unable to provide a minister to represent the Scottish Government on the day. I want to reassure you that we value the role that BAE's yards in Govan and Scotstoun play as both a large employer in Glasgow, and as a significant contributor to the wider Scottish economy via the local supply chain.

You will no doubt appreciate that circumstances have been driven by the formation of our new ministerial team, following the recent leadership election. If acceptable, I would be delighted to visit the yard at a mutually convenient point in the near future and see first hand both the work currently undertaken at the yard, and plans underway to secure the yard's future and expand the manufacturing footprint at Govan.



NEIL GRAY