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Ross Greer MSP
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The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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07th June 2018

Dear Mr Greer

Re: Amended answer to PQ – S5W-11258

I understand that Charlotte Wright, Chief Executive of Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE), has recently written to you to apologise for inaccurate information which was provided by HIE to the Scottish Government to respond to Parliamentary Question (PQ) S5W-11258 which you asked on 12 September 2017. I am now writing to advise you that I have provided an amended answer to the PQ to Parliament and to apologise for the error.

In my previous letter, I provided the figure of £61,238 as the level of financial support provided by HIE to businesses that may be targeting defence contracts as part of their operating strategy over 2016-17. The correct figure is £740,265.

It has recently become evident that the figure I provided only represented funding from HIE for part of 2016-17. At an earlier date, HIE provided the Scottish Government with information on funding from April to October 2016 for the purpose of answering PQ S5W-03736 asked by John Finnie MSP. Subsequently, on receipt of your PQ, HIE were asked for funding information for the entire financial year 2016-17. At this time, HIE only detailed funding for the remainder of the financial year (November 2016 to March 2017) without any clear indication that this was the case.

Your question was:

To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-03736 by Keith Brown on 31 October 2016, whether it will provide the information for 2016-17, and what information it can provide regarding which companies received funding, how much they received and the purpose of the award.

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The amended answer is:

Neither Highlands and Islands Enterprise or Scottish Enterprise provide assistance directly to the arms trade. As part of the broad range of support provided some firms in receipt of that support may be engaged in activities such as research and development/ components or products which may be applicable to defence related use. I am unable to provide details of the individual amounts or purposes of the awards received by companies due to commercial sensitivity.

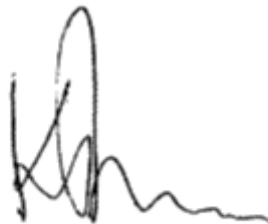
Financial support provided by SE and HIE to businesses where the activities may be applicable to defence related use in 2016-17 is shown in the table below:

Year	SE (£)	HIE (£)	Total (£)
2016-17	457,356	740,265	1,197,621

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

I place particular importance on ensuring that our responses to PQs are timely and accurate and have instructed my officials and our enterprise agencies to take steps to ensure similar errors do not occur in the future.

Yours sincerely



KEITH BROWN

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