



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ99999, WQ100000 and WQ100001

Kiera Marshall MS
Member of the Senedd for Caerdydd Penarth

Kiera.Marshall-AS@senedd.cymru

20th August 2026

Dear Kiera,

Your written questions WQ99999, WQ100000 and WQ100001 tabled to the First Minister on the 5 August 2026, regarding Cardiff Airport have been transferred to me to respond to as Arms-length oversight of Cardiff International Airport Ltd (CIAL) falls within my portfolio of Ministerial responsibilities.

Military aviation is a reserved matter. UK military aviation is principally regulated through the Ministry of Defence and Military Aviation Authority, while foreign military aircraft operating in the UK are subject to relevant UK Government clearance requirements. Where military aircraft use a UK civil airport, the airport and applicable civil aviation services remain subject to Civil Aviation Authority regulation.

The information you have requested is publicly available through aircraft tracking services such as; [ADS-B Exchange - track aircraft live](#) and [OpenSky](#). For ease of reference, as you will see in the database, 171 US Defence flights have utilised Cardiff airport.

Cardiff Airport does not have the licences required for handling aircraft on-site which are carrying ammunition.

We are very clear that defence activity in Wales must be done in a manner consistent with international law and with due consideration of all relevant ethical aspects.

Work is underway on an ethical defence framework for Wales and we have been in discussions with various partners such as the Scottish Government and Northern Irish Government in developing this.

I have written to the UK Secretary of State for Defence seeking a meeting to better understand the UK Government's policy position on US military aviation activity within the UK as well as the legal framework that governs that activity. As part of this we will also be

seeking assurances that the UK Government is confident that all relevant tests have been met regarding compliance with international law.

I would be happy to update you in due course once the meeting has taken place.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Adam Price', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Price AS/MS

Gweinidog Cabinet dros Fenter, Cysylltedd ac Ynni

Cabinet Minister for Enterprise, Connectivity and Energy