NAME

ADDRESS

DATE

Dear …………………

I am writing to you as, potentially, my future MP to remind you of the ever-present danger to humanity of the possession and potential use of nuclear weapons. The UK is one among nine countries manufacturing nuclear weapons, with the consequent possibility of a nuclear accident. As a member of the UN Security Council, our government carries a heavy responsibility for bringing an end to the threat from nuclear weapons.

Since 2013 there have been three international conferences hosted by the Norwegian, Mexican, and Austrian Governments on the Humanitarian Consequences of a Nuclear Detonation. They have shown clearly that many countries and millions of people, women, children and men, could experience a ‘nuclear winter’ following a single nuclear explosion – even an accident. Shortages of food and the exodus of refugees would affect countries further afield and potentially trigger conflicts and war.

At the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Committee meeting in 2013 eighty countries signed a statement presented by South Africa - a country that has given up its nuclear weapons – which said:

***“No state or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapons detonation or provide adequate assistance to victims”***

The vast majority of countries in the United Nations and in the world do not possess nuclear weapons yet they are vulnerable to the policies of the few nuclear weapons states. The South African statement representing eighty countries at the NPT concluded that:

***“The only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used again is through their total elimination”***

Our government agreed at the NPT Review Conference in May 2010 to ‘commit to undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non- deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures.’ However at the third international Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons when the opportunity arose to make progress towards eliminating nuclear weapons, HM Government made a statement referring to ‘the stability and security which nuclear weapons provide’.

All UK governments have to make serious decisions about expenditure. Now seems to be the time to stop the current expenditure and work on the replacement of the Trident Nuclear Weapons System and for the UK government to show international leadership. Cancelling Trident replacement could provide the catalyst for a nuclear free world.

I look forward to hearing your views on how a future UK Government could act to bring an end to the nuclear threat.

Yours sincerely,