

# Article36

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Alistair Burt MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Minister for Counter Proliferation  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London, SW1A 2AH

28 November 2011

Dear Minister,

In November 2008, the United Kingdom was granted a 10-year extension to its international legal obligation to complete clearance of all anti-personnel mines in the Falkland Islands as required under the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. In seeking approval for this extension, the UK not only committed to clearance of the landmines within this extension period (in line with the UK's choice of 'Scenario 5' from its own feasibility study) but also committed to providing States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty with detailed information on plans and progress.

As of November 2011 the UK had only undertaken clearance of a very limited pilot-project area and has provided no substantive information on plans or projected costs for meeting the commitment to completion that it clearly reaffirmed in 2008.

We recognise that the current financial circumstances bear upon the allocation of resources to this work. However, the UK's practice of making commitments on this matter and then failing to follow through on them sets the worst possible example to other states that are working to meet their treaty obligations in good faith. In this vein, the UK also has a long-standing but unmet commitment to ratify Protocol V of the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

As a British member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, we therefore urge the UK to present its actual plans for further clearance work including their projected costs, and to make public any needs for assistance it has in order to meet the commitments it has made.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Nash  
Director  
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