



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien  
Scotland's for Peace  
15 Barrland Street  
GLASGOW  
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8<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**My Ref: C/W3/1384/SM/BHD**

**Please quote on all correspondence**

Dear *Cardinal O'Brien*

**Trident Nuclear Weapons**

Thank you for your letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> March in connection with the above issue.

Although you have asked for a straight 'Yes' of 'No' on this, I am unable to be quite so specific at this point. Here's why:

If you had asked me the same thing four or five years ago, I would straight away have said 'Yes, I will vote for a Trident replacement'. However, the situation has moved on and I admit the position is now weakened as a consequence of the World Order changing rapidly. It would be fair to say that I am not convinced from everything I have heard of the need for a replacement. However, although the world faces a new set of dangers, I don't believe we should be complacent, but rather we should evolve our defensive position in the light of the best intelligence and assessment of present and future threats.

Hence, what I want is for politicians to have a serious debate on this issue, in which I would very much like to participate.

I am obviously very well aware of the position you are coming from on this matter and I am quite sure that no matter what arguments might be put forward, you would be opposed to replacing Trident. I have to say I absolutely respect that point of view.

I am sorry I cannot be entirely black or white at this time but I hope you also see that my mind is completely open to the arguments and in the end I may well give you the answer you would wish to see.

Yours sincerely

Brian H Donohoe MP  
Central Ayrshire