**Sample Letter:**

*Ms. Clare Simpson*

*Chief Officer*

*Sovereign Base Areas*

*By email:* [*sbaa-HQ-ChiefOffr@mod.uk*](mailto:sbaa-HQ-ChiefOffr@mod.uk)

*(Date)*

**Subject: Threats to the protected sites of the UK Sovereign Base Area (SBA) of Akrotiri, Cyprus, and urgent need for action.**

Dear Ms. Simpson

I am writing to express my concern about the environmental threats that Akrotiri Peninsula in Cyprus is facing. The Akrotiri Peninsula, within the Western SBA in Cyprus, is one of the most species-rich and important areas on the island for birds and other wildlife, and a top destination for any nature lover.

Although most important sites on the Peninsula are designated as protected under SBA Ordinances, they sadly lack proper management and are at risk of serious degradation. The greatest threats are habitat loss and fragmentation because of pressures for development, both military and civilian. These include, tourist developments, roads, renewable energy infrastructure and extensive antenna installations as well as disturbance by visitors, off-road driving, opportunistic rallying and illegal dumping of rubbish.

The approved ‘Policy to Promote Regulation and Control of Development and the Protection of the Environment in the SBAs (Policy Statement)’ set a mostly good framework. But my understanding is that the success of some of the relevant planning provisions and restrictions depends, crucially, on issues which still remain to be determined.

I am writing to you because I want the SBA Administration to take urgent action, to ensure the proper and effective protection of Akrotiri Peninsula and its species. That is why I am asking you to:

i) ensure that ‘*Management and Protection of Nature Orders*’ are published as soon as possible, as they are central to the effective management of Akrotiri Peninsula. These Orders should be based on an updated Environmental Management Plan, identifying the needs of the species and the habitats of the protected sites.

ii) ensure that all development on Lady’s Mile is in keeping with the area’s protection status. This should include restriction of development within the pre-defined footprint, completion of a sound Regulatory Plan controlling access at site and restoration of damaged habitats.

ii) establish effective law enforcement strategies against the illegal activities currently degrading Akrotiri

Your willingness to take action will demonstrate your support for nature conservation in the SBA.

I look forward to receiving a response from you.

Sincerely,

Optional: (*Your Name*) (*Street Address) (Town, Province) (Postal Code) (and/or email address if applicable)*