

## **SAMPLE LETTER TO STATE EDUCATION MINISTER**

Dear Minister,

I am seeking information from you regarding any links that may exist between weapons companies and [name of your state] public schools.

[If you are a stakeholder, or have any other special relationship to this issue, take a few lines to say why it's important to you.]

Specifically, I would like information about:

1. Sponsorships
2. Events
3. Competitions (including national competitions, particularly in the area of STEM)
4. Tours of industry premises
5. Exhibitions at careers fairs or the like
6. Direct engagement between weapons industry personnel and students and teachers
7. Guest speaking spots provided to engineers or other weapons company representatives
8. Sponsored trips (including overseas trips) for students and teachers

The weapons companies I am most interested in are:

1. BAE Systems
2. Lockheed Martin
3. Raytheon
4. Boeing
5. Northrop Grumman
6. Thales
7. SAAB
8. Airbus Group

I am also seeking information about departmental policy that regulates sponsorship arrangements between corporate entities and schools.

Generally, entities that make harmful products – like tobacco, or firearms – are not permitted to have relationships with schools.

Overall, the weapons industry is a major contributor to civilian harm, and the global trade in arms is associated with corruption and human rights abuses.

Are weapons companies prohibited from having relationships [state] schools?

Some of the weapons companies listed are involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are now deemed illegal, under the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, because of their indiscriminate and disproportionate effects on humanity.

Are companies that make illegal products prohibited from having relationships with children in [state] schools?

Thank you for your detailed response.

*[Can you share your letter and any response with MAPW? This will help our campaign. Email eo@mapw.org.au]*