



Defence Committee

Chair, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP

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An issue on which the Committee receives correspondence from a range of members of the public, many of whom have extremely distressing stories to relate, is that of traumatic brain injury (TBI). I suspect that many Members of the House will have been contacted by veterans who suffer from TBI, but who are in despair because they are unable to get either a diagnosis or effective treatment.

I know that the Government is funding research, but I am concerned that we seem to be lagging ever further behind the US in the provision of MEG scans to veterans. Indeed we have been told that even where scans are available, CCGs are reluctant to use them because they are concerned that the lack of official guidance may mean that MEG scans are not considered an appropriate use of public funds.

There is a considerable amount of correspondence between this Committee and your Department, and I understand the reactions of those veterans and their families who feel that another exchange of letters will not lead to any real progress. But I hope that you will be able to point to practical steps to improve the diagnosis and treatment of TBI, including guidance that MEG scans are an appropriate use of CCGs' funds.

I am copying this letter to Leo Docherty, Minister for Defence People and Veterans, and to Sajid Javid, the Health Secretary.

Rt Hon. Tobias Ellwood MP
Chair of the Defence Committee