



Ministry
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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JOHNNY MERCER MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AND MINISTER
FOR DEFENCE PEOPLE AND VETERANS

MSU/4/8/1/2/is

4 August 2020

Dear Tobias,

Thank you to you and the Committee for taking the time to review the MOD's plans for recruiting the next Service Complaints Ombudsman.

I am pleased the Committee welcomes the creation of the Chief Executive position.

I note the Committee's concern regarding the proposal to offer the Ombudsman role on a more flexible part-time basis and the potential negative message this could send. I would like to reassure you that our proposal was absolutely not about saving money. We believe there are advantages to taking a more flexible approach in the employment of the next Ombudsman, and indeed that it could potentially increase the diversity of candidates applying.

We do acknowledge however that this change could be perceived negatively and we would not wish there to be any question over the MOD's support for the office of the Service Complaints Ombudsman. I confirm therefore that we will advertise the role on a full-time basis.

It is our intention to shortly launch the job advert for this role and I will continue to keep the Committee updated on the progress of the recruitment at the necessary stages.

Yours sincerely,

JOHNNY MERCER MP

The Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP
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