



Ministry
of Defence

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Inquiry on the Armed Forces Covenant

Thank you for your letter dated 11 December 2024. I welcome your plans to carry out scrutiny of the Covenant through this Inquiry. I think the Committee will conduct the Inquiry thoroughly and I hope you will be able to complete it speedily, as I know you wish to contribute fully to the development of Government policy plans. I agree to grant special dispensation to Service Personnel to provide evidence to the Committee should they wish, as I believe this will enrich the understanding of the Committee, Parliament and Government of the experience of the Armed Forces community. I request that you include families, the bereaved cohort and Veterans in your consultation, as well of course as service providers, Local Government and businesses who play such a central part in supporting our Armed Forces and Veterans.

For the defence of our nation, we will always need courageous people to do dangerous things. Central to this is the contract between our nation and its service personnel that acknowledges the unlimited liability they accept in the course of their duties. Since 2011, the Armed Forces Covenant has been a promise by the nation that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families along with the bereaved, should be treated fairly. This is a promise that we do not take lightly. That is why, as you know, this government made a manifesto commitment to place the Covenant fully into law and I am pleased to confirm that work is already underway to develop and deliver on this.

We always want to hear from our people on how we can better support them, and I look forward to hearing the findings of your Inquiry.



THE RT HON JOHN HEALEY MP
Secretary of State for Defence

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP
Chair of House of Commons Defence Committee