



Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill

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Dear Minister,

I am writing further to the Committee's letter of 4 March requesting the Statutory Guidance on applying the duty of due regard to the Armed Forces Covenant. Whilst the MOD is undeniably preoccupied at this time with the Integrated Review, I note that the guidance is yet to be provided or published for the benefit of stakeholders.

As stated previously, it is of critical importance that this is available to the Committee in order for it to effectively scrutinise the Bill. I would also like to request that all impact assessments for the Bill, including the equality and diversity impact assessment, be made available to the Committee urgently. Only then will it be able to properly consider the provisions of this legislation and the potential effects on those with protected characteristics.

The Committee would greatly appreciate your urgent assistance in these matters.

James Sunderland MP
Chair of the Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill