



Public Accounts Committee

Calvin Bailey MBE MP
Minister for Veterans and People
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

By email

8 September 2026

Closure of the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme to new applications

Dear Calvin,

I am writing to you following the evidence that Ministry of Defence officials gave to the Public Accounts Committee on 4 June about the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme (the Scheme). During that session Committee members raised concerns about the closure of the application window for the Scheme on 12 December 2026 and the risk that some eligible veterans may miss the chance to apply either due to a lack of awareness or lack of support.

During our inquiry, Peter Gibson, Chief Executive of Fighting With Pride, wrote to us raising concerns about the insufficient publicity and outreach the Scheme received. Government only decided to award a contract of £60,000 to promote the scheme six months before it was due to close to applicants.

At the Committee's evidence session, I was also concerned to hear that the MoD does not have a workable contingency plan should eligible veterans submit applications after the Scheme closes to new claims.

I appreciate that any decision to extend the Scheme is a matter for Ministers. In light of the concerns, I would ask that the option of extending the scheme be given careful consideration. I would be grateful if you could write back to me by October 6th with details of what consideration has been given to extending the scheme; how the MoD is actively mitigating the risk that some eligible veterans are not able to apply before the 12 December deadline; and how it plans to handle claims submitted after the deadline.

I am copying this letter to the Permanent Secretary, the Chair of the Defence Committee, the Comptroller and Auditor General, and the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Yours Sincerely

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts