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Date 22 February 2016

My Ref **MP.16/17 I**

Your Ref

Dear Mr Mercer

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Chair of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board. You will be aware that we recently held a scrutiny session with your parliamentary colleagues from the city which you were unable to attend.

As a result the Board agreed to put forward some questions which were raised at that meeting in writing to you and request a written response.

- Would you explain why you have not engaged with partners in Plymouth on our Armed Forces Community Covenant?
- Would you tell the Board what veteran's organisations you have engaged with in Plymouth?
- Would you explain why you did not attend the annual meeting with local HMS Heroes?
- Would you explain why in October you voted for a reduction in the Employment and Support Allowance, reducing the amount paid to ill or disabled people by £29.05 a week, which would affect a significant amount of veterans in our City?
- As the a major tertiary centre and regional hospital in the Southwest is within your constituency, would you make enquiries with the Secretary of State for Health on how many additional junior doctors and what extra funding will be provided to Derriford Hospital to accommodate the 7 day working week?

I would like to thank you for your offer of alternative dates to come and meet us, unfortunately due to the municipal calendar none of those dates are suitable however I hope we can come to mutually convenient time in the new municipal year. I look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

Councillor David James  
Chair, Co-operative Scrutiny Board

CC'd. Board members, Oliver Colville MP, Gary Streeter MP