

Johnny Mercer MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**Councillor Tudor Evans OBE**  
Leader of Plymouth City Council  
Labour Councillor for Ham Ward

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23rd July 2019

Dear Johnny

### **SUPPORT FOR ARMED FORCES VETERANS**

I am writing to you following a Motion on Notice regarding the above being agreed at the City Council meeting of 24 June 2019 to call on you to continue your efforts to ensure that Armed Forces veterans are fully supported in respect of their post-service needs.

As a city with strong military links, this Council welcomes the Government commitment to legislate to ensure service personnel and veterans are not subjected to repeated investigations on the basis of historical operations, many years after the events in question.

We applaud the hard work that our local MPs have done to bring this about and we recognise that there is much more to be done in making adequate provision for veterans on a wide range of concerns relating to their former service.

We are proud that members of our Armed Forces serve the United Kingdom, often in the most difficult and dangerous circumstances, and we know that our Armed Forces personnel having been trained to the highest professional standards, recognise their duty to operate within the law and accept that if allegations of misconduct arise, they must be properly investigated to establish whether a prosecution is necessary.

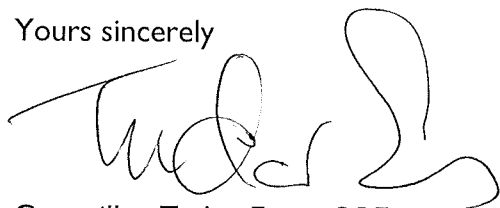
We note that the government's current intention is not to extend the provisions of the new legislation that will protect service personnel from repeated investigations including matters of operational service in Northern Ireland.

We strongly support the views of many veterans of service in Northern Ireland during the 'Troubles', that they are not getting adequate support from the government. We also recognise that the important outcomes of the Good Friday Agreement are under threat currently and that there are increasing tensions in Northern Ireland across both nationalist and loyalist communities.

We believe strongly that our veterans deserve better. I therefore ask you to continue your efforts to ensure that a clear understanding is established in Parliament of the need for robust new evidence to be the principal precursor for any re-opening of previous

investigations and that protections are applied to all serving personnel and veterans irrespective of the sphere of operation in which they served.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tudor Evans', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE  
**Leader, Plymouth City Council**

cc Luke Pollard MP  
Gary Streeter MP