

Caroline Dinenage MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

30th November 2010

Armed Forces Occupational Pensions & Gratuities including back payments, interest and compensation for lost opportunities for service prior 1975.

Enclosures

1. Written Ministerial Statements December 14th 2009-The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Kevan Jones) (Copy)
2. Letter to the Chief Executive, Service Personnel and Veterans Agency dated December 1st 2010. (Copy)
3. Letter in reply to Mr Glenn Duggan dated December 1st 2010. (Copy)
4. Copy of Article as Published in the November Edition of the 'Government Gazette

Further to my letter to you dated 18th November 2010 to which I have had no acknowledgement or reply to date?

I have in the meantime received a letter from Mr Glenn Duggan dated 23rd November 2010 referring to matters of Internal Dispute Procedures and my reply to him is copied to you as in Enclosure 3.

You will remember our next opportunity to meet and discuss these issues further was cancelled by yourself at the last minute on October 15th 2010. You will also remember at our meeting on September 10th last you agreed that prior to putting a question to the Prime Minister at 'Question Time' on Wednesdays it would be necessary to put them to the Minister of Defence, which I detailed for you in my letter above on the 18th November.

Could you therefore confirm for me you have forwarded the above questions to the Minister of Defence Dr Liam Fox MP as requested for a reply by 15th December at the latest?

Could you also confirm you will arrange another opportunity for a meeting as a matter of urgency please?

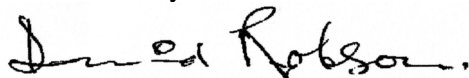
In the meantime would you please inform the Minister for Veterans Andrew Robatham MP that his statement in reply to questions put to him by our Members MPs that – ‘However I am afraid there is no prospect of this or any other Government being able to afford the many billions of pounds that would be needed to address public sector legacy issues by granting retrospection on this issue’, is totally incorrect!

The reasons for my claim, as above, are set out for you on Page 2 paragraph 3 of my letter to you dated 18th November 2010. Other public legacy issues have nothing whatever to do with Occupational Pensions and Gratuity issues and the fact is, the Armed Forces are the only employees whose transitional and transfer arrangements were not taken into account in accordance with the Social Security Act 1973 Section 38 Schedule 16. This amounts to blatant discrimination against the Armed Forces serving prior to 1975. Not only does it amount to blatant discrimination it also amounts to ‘Large scale benefits fraud’. Further the past Government, and this Government no doubt, have no idea what the cost of correcting this injustice is because according to both, the Armed Forces serving pre 1975, are just not important enough to them now to find out! This shameful attitude equates to Politicians who think they can drive around ignoring the 30mph speed limit and without motor insurance whilst putting two fingers up to the Law!

I shall look forward to your urgent response with interest.

Thanking you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely



David Robson

Secretary General

The Combined Armed Forces Federation U.K.