

Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Graeme Dey MSP



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Chris Hughes  
Executive Chairman  
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Dear Chris

You will have seen today's announcements about the launch of the *Strategy for our Veterans*. The launch is timely, in the week where we have just marked 100 years since the Armistice, and, while still honouring the past, it is right to also be looking forward and considering how we can ensure that the support and recognition we give to our veterans remains effective in meeting their changing needs.

A copy of the new strategy is attached and an electronic version will be available shortly on the Scottish Government website. The strategy sets out the vision and principles that will help ensure that we respond to the needs of our veterans - both now and in the future – and I am therefore pleased that we have gained cross-government agreement on the contents of the strategy and that it will therefore apply across the United Kingdom.

As you are aware, to inform how we deliver the veterans strategy, we are planning our own consultation in Scotland. The outcome of the consultation will help us to identify our priorities for veterans and consider how we shape our services to ensure that support provided to veterans remains effective. We plan to engage with key stakeholders, large and small, across the public, private and 3<sup>rd</sup> sectors. Through these stakeholders, we will also seek to identify groups of veterans with whom we can engage directly, to ensure that we understand their views. And we will continue to learn from the work of the Scottish Veterans Commissioner, the only such position in the UK, whose recommendations form a key part of setting our ambitions for the Armed Forces and veterans community in Scotland.

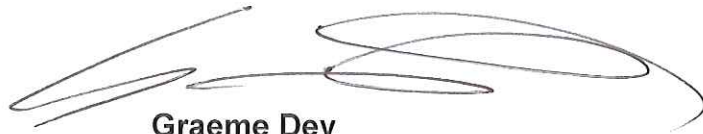
During this consultation process we will also continue to engage closely with the other governments across the UK, who are conducting their own consultations, to ensure that we share emerging findings. While there will be differences in how services are provided by the respective governments, the needs of veterans will have many

common themes, which is why it why I am pleased to support this collaborative approach to which all of the governments have committed.

We will continue the consultation process until February 2019, with the aim being to report on the outcomes by early summer 2019.

I would be grateful if you could copy this letter to your members and I look forward to working with you and them to help deliver the new *Strategy for our Veterans* in Scotland.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you and addressing your Annual General Meeting later today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and strokes, positioned above the printed name.

**Graeme Dey**