Lesley Griffiths AM,
Minister for Health,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

February 2013

Dear Lesley Griffiths,

The Armed Forces Covenant in Action? Part 1: Military Casualties

As you are aware, the Defence Committee carried out an inquiry into military casualties to which you kindly provided a statement to the Committee on issues relating to transition from Military Service to civilian life. The Defence Committee published its Report into military casualties in December 2011 and the Government Response to that Report in February 2013. We followed up the Government Response with the Ministry of Defence in July 2012.

We are now undertaking further work in this area and, recognising the importance of the Devolved Administrations in meeting the health needs of former Service personnel, we would like to understand further the work you are doing on veterans' mental and physical health needs and your interaction with the MoD, the Department of Health and the Northern Ireland and Scottish Governments.

In particular, we would like your assistance in addressing the following topics:

- How you commission your health authorities to meet the health needs of veterans.
- **The implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Wales** What aspects have you introduced? Have you a programme for educating health professionals in the medical needs of the former Service personnel?
- **The Welsh Government's involvement in the MoD Transition Protocol** How many ex-Service personnel passed through the Transition Protocol into civilian life in Wales?
• The approach taken by the Welsh Government to the mental health needs of the former Armed Forces personnel. How is the implementation of the National Assembly for Wales report on post traumatic stress disorder going? Is the MoD working with you to implement the recommendations of the Murrison Report “Fighting Fit”?

• Welsh Government involvement in implementing the Murrison recommendations on Veterans’ prosthetic services. Have you accepted these recommendations? If so, how will you implement them in Wales?

• Specific policies in place to provide the long term cares needs of those veterans with serious brain injuries

• Does the Welsh Government exclude Guaranteed Income Payments made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme when determining the funding of publicly arranged social care?

I look forward to hearing from you on the good work being undertaken in Wales.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

James Abbott

CHAIR