Dr Andrew Murrison MP  
Minister for International Security Strategy  
Ministry of Defence  
Floor 5, Zone D  
Main Building, Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

17th December 2013

Dear Andrew,

The Armed Forces Covenant in Action? Part 2: Accommodation

In April 2013, the Committee wrote asking the Ministry of Defence for a progress report on the implementation of the Committee’s recommendations in its Report on Service Accommodation and other developments. In June, the MoD provided a very useful and full response to our request. As you will be aware, much of the work relating to accommodation is still ongoing. We recognise that many of our recommendations and the MoD’s planned work need to be incorporated into the outcome of the New Employment Model, the Footprint Strategy and the Future Accommodation Project.

I would be grateful if you would update us on the latest position on your work relating to accommodation. I attach a detailed list of areas where we would like to know how the MoD is progressing.

I would be grateful if we could have your reply by Friday 13 March.

Yours ever,

CHAIR
Annex

Areas of interest to the Committee on the accommodation provided to Service Personnel

1. Progress on the Living Accommodation Strategy Review with regard to both Single Living Accommodation (SLA) and Service Families Accommodation (SFA).
2. Latest position on the New Employment Model including:
   - the outcome of the “interactive engagement and consultation exercise with Service personnel and families during summer 2013”;
   - the results of the research to understand the wider impacts of the introduction of a “new financial incentive scheme to support home ownership”;
   - plans for the Long Standing Advance of Pay; and
   - progress on replacing the system for determining Grade for Charge with a “Combined Accommodation Assessment System” – will it still be implemented by April 2015.
3. The Future Footprint Strategy and its impact on SLA and SFA requirements.
4. The latest condition of Single Living Accommodation (SLA) (set out as in Table 5 of the Committee’s Report1).
5. Latest thinking on the provision of SLA including the balance between single and multiple accommodation and the size and quality standards.
6. The latest condition of Service Families Accommodation (SFA) (set out as in Table 2 of the Committee’s Report2).
7. The number of families still in SFA condition 3 or 4 and what is happening to the properties in condition 3 or 4;
8. The costs of SFA for 2011-12, 2012-13 and planned for 2013-14 (set out as in Table 1 of the Committee’s Report3).
9. Latest position of the use of substitute SFA including:
   - the number of families in SSFA; and

1 The Armed Forces Covenant in Action Part2: Accommodation HC 331, 2012-13, Table 5
2 Ibid, Table 2
3 Ibid, Table 1
• the number of properties purchased to reduce reliance on SSFA and how many of them are occupied.

10. The introduction of SFA for personnel in long term relationships.


12. Latest performance figures on the Housing Allocations Service Centre and the progress on the introduction of the “automated Self-Preference system”.

13. Progress through the Community Covenant partnerships in implementing the council tax discount.

14. Progress on the next generation of the National Housing Prime Contract.

15. The latest position on the Defence Infrastructure Transformation Programme including the Enhanced Operating Model.