From the Chair, Rory Stewart MP

Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP,
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Floor 5, Zone D
Main Building, Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

November 2014

Dear Secretary of State,

Reform of the Disability Living Allowance: impact on war pensioners

It has been brought to our attention that war pensioners in receipt of Disability Living Allowance will be reassessed, under the reform of DLA, to see if they are eligible for the new Personal Independence Payment but that those in receipt of a Guaranteed Income Payment of 50 per cent or higher through the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme will receive a benefit specific to the Armed Forces – the Armed Forces Independence Payment. I would be grateful if you could explain the reasoning underpinning the decision to differentiate between the two groups of veterans.

I would also be grateful if you could tell the Committee about what assessment you have made of the likely impact on war pensioners of the change. In particular what estimate has the Government made of the number of war pensioners who will be found to be ineligible for PIP and whether the MoD expects particular groups of war pensioners to be disadvantaged.

I would be grateful if we could have your reply by Friday 28 November 2014.

CHAIR