



Ministry
of Defence

SECRETARY OF STATE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5, ZONE D, MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 020 7218 9000
Fax: 020 721 87140
E-mail: [defencesecretary-
group@mod.gov.uk](mailto:defencesecretary-group@mod.gov.uk)

4.8.1.2

5 April 2019

Thank you for your further letter of 26 March 2019 regarding the Defence Engineering and Science Group scheme.

As I mentioned in my letter of 14 March, 2019, I wholly sympathise with any individuals who have been medically discharged after completing their studies, prior to being commissioned. I understand how frustrating and disappointing this must be, and I can assure you that we have investigated whether we can fairly take any action to help those who find themselves in these situations.

I can only reiterate, however, that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) is compelled to follow fair and open Civil Service recruitment principles and we are unable to make exceptions in these particular circumstances. I should explain that, when they are studying, individuals are usually sponsored or funded by the MOD so still have formal links to Defence; which is why we are able to show some flexibility in those instances. When an individual no longer has those official links, they can only be recruited through open competition. Nonetheless, as you say, we are keen to recruit and retain the very best and brightest individuals to support the Armed Forces, which is why we offer assistance to those who find themselves in circumstances like this, while remaining within the bounds of Civil Service recruitment principles. Individuals are also strongly encouraged to apply for other available MOD roles, with additional advice available on how to do that should they need it.

I would ask that any affected individuals get in touch with the Defence Engineering and Science Group via DESHR-LearnTalCoE@mod.gov.uk for further advice.

THE RT HON GAVIN WILLIAMSON CBE MP

The Rt Hon Dr Julian Lewis MP
Chair, House of Commons Defence Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA