Dear Gavin,

In your letter of 7 December to the Chair of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body you mention plans to defer a pay award to the armed forces until after the projected date of 1 April, with the eventual award being backdated to that date.

This is of course disappointing, but its effects could be mitigated by agreeing to pay the 1% increase on 1 April, leaving only awards above that figure to be agreed and paid retrospectively at a later date. I am not aware of any rule forbidding such an approach, and presume that the Department’s payroll systems are able to cope with a split award.

I am copying this letter to John Steele, Chair of the AFPRB and to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon. Dr Julian Lewis
Chair of the Committee