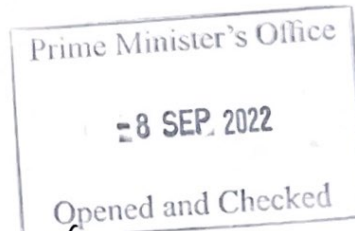




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The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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1 September 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

I wanted to write personally to thank you for all you have done for the Royal British Legion during your time as Prime Minister.

From our first meeting in your role as Mayor of London, as you helped launch the Poppy Appeal, to meeting at the Conservative Party Conference in 2021 to discuss the issues affecting the Armed Forces Community, I have greatly valued your support.

As a Charity, we have welcomed your Government's commitment to making the UK the best place in the world to be a veteran, as well as the measures outlined in the recent Veterans Strategy Action Plan, and we will continue to work with the Office for Veterans Affairs to support the Government to make this ambition a reality.

We have also been pleased to see the culmination of two of our largest campaigns, with Government changes in policy providing significant steps forward in support for the UK Armed Forces Community. Following our Count Them In campaign, we were delighted to see the 2021 census for the first time ask whether someone had served in the Armed Forces, and earlier this year we were similarly pleased, after a three year campaign, to see a waiver introduced for non-UK personnel in the UK Armed Forces who have served a minimum of six years. We hope your successor will continue this progress and acknowledge the burden of fees amongst non-UK spouses and children in our Armed Forces Community who do so much to provide support for our serving personnel.

The Armed Forces covenant is the greatest promise the nation has made to treating its Armed Forces Community with fairness, dignity and respect. Ten years on from its first introduction into legislation, the Armed Forces Act 2021 introduced a legal duty in select public bodies to consider it in their delivery of policy for the first time. This is significant and welcomed progress towards a legal underpinning that can protect the Armed Forces Community from facing disadvantage as a result of Service and, where appropriate, receiving special treatment.

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, may I thank you for your dedication to our work and your service to our country. We are grateful for your time and commitment and wish you all the best for the future.

With regards

Charles Byrne

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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