

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

22nd September 2023

Dear Anthony,

RE: 'CREDIT THEIR SERVICE' CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the Royal British Legion's 'Credit their Service' campaign. I have read your comments with interest.

My ministerial colleagues and I recognise the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, which is why this Government has done more for veterans than any of its predecessors.

As you will know, many veterans have access to a number of pension benefits and, in the unfortunate event they face injury when serving, compensation schemes too. War pensions and Pension Credit are both designed to help with day-to-day living costs, however, in recognition of the sacrifices made by members of His Majesty's Armed Forces, £10 per week of any such pension is ignored in the calculation of a Pension Credit award. This is a more favourable approach than to other forms of income, such as a personal pension.

It is my view, and that of this Government, that the best way to ease cost of living pressures is to tackle inflation. To this end, the Chancellor has put forward a plan to halve inflation this year and lay the foundations for long-term growth to improve living standards for everyone, including veterans and personnel. In addition, all households, including veterans, can access an unprecedented package of support to help with the cost of living, including through the Energy Price Guarantee, Cost of Living Payments and Council Tax rebate, as applicable to their location and personal circumstances.

Furthermore, I would urge any veteran who may be struggling financially to be in touch with the Veterans Welfare Service, which can assist with benefits checks, completion of application forms and signposting to entitlements and support available from the wider public and voluntary sectors. I understand that one to one advice can be provided by phone or home visit when needed. Financial advice specifically tailored for veterans can also be found at Veterans' Gateway.

Finally, you may also be interested to know that the Defence Discount Service (DDS) provides savings and discounts for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and the defence community.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE