**Josh Babarinde OBE CF MP**
Member of Parliament for Eastbourne

House of Commons

Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
London SW1A 2HQ

26 October 2026

**Treatment of Military Compensation Within The Benefits System**

Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer The Rt Hon John Healey MP,

Ahead of the budget we are writing to you and asking you to consider the potential merits of disregarding compensation from the War Pension and Armed Forces Compensation schemes in the calculation of benefit entitlements.

Military compensation is awarded and paid by the UK Government to support with the ongoing costs of an illness or injury acquired in Service to the UK Armed Forces. 144,000 veterans and their families receive this compensation. However, this compensation is unjustly regarded as income by many welfare benefit means tests, while civil awards, such as personal injury or medical negligence compensation, are typically exempt. This means that some of the poorest members of the Armed Forces community are denied support their civilian counterparts receive, missing out on thousands of pounds a year.

Staff Sergeant Pauline Cole was a perfect example of the injustice which currently impacts some of our veterans. Pauline sustained injuries while serving our country in Aden. She was awarded military compensation but saw her pension credit cut from £77 a week to just £11 a week. Effectively leaving her no better off despite living with and having to shoulder additional costs due to her health that required the compensation. Unfortunately, we lost Pauline late last year, but we are continuing the campaign for change.

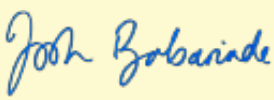
RBL estimates that as of March 2026, 4,120 veterans and widow(er)s in receipt of compensation for injury or bereavement in Service would claim Pension Credit. This means that thousands of veterans could receive vital financial assistance if this compensation was no longer means tested.

In addition to this, there is inconsistent treatment of military compensation in means tests administered by the Government and local authorities, which can result in the poorest and most vulnerable members of the Armed Forces Community, being ineligible for certain benefits.

UK Government pledged the Armed Forces Covenant, a promise to ensure that members of the Armed Forces community should: “face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services”. We believe that this means testing of military compensation breaches this promise. Therefore we are calling for the Government to use this upcoming budget to consider amending benefit regulations to ensure that no member of the Armed Forces community has their compensation treated as income by any means tested benefits.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please get in touch. We look forward to your response.

Best Wishes,



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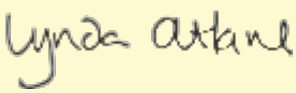

**Lynda Atkins**
National Chair, Royal British Legion

And 102 additional Members of Parliament from across 11 different political parties (see following pages)

**Adam Dance MP**
Yeovil
Liberal Democrat

**Al Pinkerton MP**
Surrey Heath
Liberal Democrat

**Alex Brewer MP**
North East Hampshire
Liberal Democrat

**Alex Easton MP**
North Down
Independent

**Alison Bennett MP**
Mid Sussex
Liberal Democrat

**Alistair Carmichael MP**
Orkney and Shetland
Liberal Democrat

**Andrew George MP**
St Ives
Liberal Democrat

**Angus MacDonald MP**
Inverness Skye and West Ross-shire
Liberal Democrat

**Anna Sabine MP**
Frome and East Somerset
Liberal Democrat

**Bayo Alaba MP**
Southend East and Rochford
Independent

**Ben Lake MP**
Ceredigion Preseli
Plaid Cymru

**Ben Maguire MP**
North Cornwall
Liberal Democrat

**Bobby Dean MP**
Carshalton and Wallington
Liberal Democrat

**Brian Mathew MP**
Melksham and Devizes
Liberal Democrat

**Calum Miller MP**
Bicester and Woodstock
Liberal Democrat

**Dame Caroline Dinenage MP**
Gosport
Conservative

**Caroline Voaden MP**
South Devon
Liberal Democrat

**Cat Eccles MP**
Stourbridge
Labour

**Charlie Maynard MP**
Witney
Liberal Democrat

**Charlotte Cane MP**
Ely and East Cambridgeshire
Liberal Democrat

**Chris Coghlan MP**
Dorking and Horley
Liberal Democrat

**Christine Jardine MP**
Edinburgh West
Liberal Democrat

**Claire Young MP**
Thornbury and Yate
Liberal Democrat

**Claire Hazelgrove MP**
Filton and Bradley Stoke
Labour

**Clive Jones MP**
Wokingham
Liberal Democrat

**Danny Chambers MP**
Winchester
Liberal Democrat

**Dave Doogan MP**
Angus and Perthshire Glens
SNP

**David Taylor MP**
Hemel Hempstead
Labour

**David Chadwick MP**
Brecon, Radnor and Cwm Tawe
Liberal Democrat

**Sir Desmond Swayne MP**
New Forest West
Conservative

**Dr Ellie Chowns MP**
North Herefordshire
Green

**Edward Morello MP**
West Dorset
Liberal Democrat

**Freddie van Mierlo MP**
Henley and Thame
Liberal Democrat

**Gideon Amos MP**
Taunton and Wellington
Liberal Democrat

**Graham Leadbitter MP**
Moray West, Nairn and Strathspey
SNP

**Graham Stuart MP**
Beverley and Holderness
Conservative

**Hannah Spencer MP**
Gorton and Denton
Green

**Helen Maguire MP**
Epsom and Ewell
Liberal Democrat

**Helen Morgan MP**
North Shropshire
Liberal Democrat

**Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP**
Chingford & Woodford Green
Conservative

**Ian Roome MP**
North Devon
Liberal Democrat

**Ian Sollom MP**
St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire
Liberal Democrat

**James MacCleary MP**
Lewes
Liberal Democrat

**Jamie Stone MP**
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
Liberal Democrat

**Jeremy Corbyn MP**
Islington North
Your Party

**Jess Brown-Fuller MP**
Chichester
Liberal Democrat

**Jim Allister MP**
North Antrim
TUV

**Jim Shannon MP**
Strangford
DUP

**Sir John Hayes MP**
South Holland and The Deepings
Conservative

**John Milne MP**
Horsham
Liberal Democrat

**Jonathan Brash MP**
Hartlepool
Labour

**Joshua Reynolds MP**
Maidenhead
Liberal Democrat

**Kirsty Blackman MP**
Aberdeen North
SNP

**Kit Malthouse MP**
North West Hampshire
Conservative

**Kim Johnson MP**
Liverpool Riverside
Labour

**Lee Dillon MP**
Newbury
Liberal Democrat

**Lillian Jones MP**
Kilmarnock and Loudoun
Labour

**Lisa Smart MP**
Hazel Grove
Liberal Democrat

**Liz Jarvis MP**
Eastleigh
Liberal Democrat

**Lorraine Beavers MP**
Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Labour

**Luke Akehurst MP**
North Durham
Labour

**Luke Myer MP**
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland
Labour

**Luke Taylor MP**
Sutton and Cheam
Liberal Democrat

**Manuela Perteghella MP**
Stratford-on-Avon
Liberal Democrat

**Marie Goldman MP**
Chelmsford
Liberal Democrat

**Marie Rimmer MP**
St. Helens South & Whiston
Labour

**Mark Sewards MP**
Leeds South West and Morley
Labour

**Martin Wrigley MP**
Newton Abbot
Liberal Democrat

**Max Wilkinson MP**
Cheltenham
Liberal Democrat

**Mike Martin MP**
Tunbridge Wells
Liberal Democrat

**Mohamed Yasin MP**
Bedford
Labour

**Monica Harding MP**
Esher and Walton
Liberal Democrat

**Neil Duncan-Jordan MP**
Poole
Labour

**Olly Glover MP**
Didcot and Wantage
Liberal Democrat

**Patrick Hurley MP**
Southport
Labour

**Paul Kohler MP**
Wimbledon
Liberal Democrat

**Paula Barker MP**
Liverpool Wavertree
Labour

**Peter Swallow MP**
Bracknell
Labour

**Pippa Heylings MP**
South Cambridgeshire
Liberal Democrat

**Rachel Gilmour MP**
Tiverton and Minehead
Liberal Democrat

**Richard Foord MP**
Honiton and Sidmouth
Liberal Democrat

**Robin Swann MP**
South Antrim
UUP

**Sammy Wilson MP**
East Antrim
DUP

**Sarah Dyke MP**
Glastonbury and Somerton
Liberal Democrat

**Sarah Gibson MP**
Chippenham
Liberal Democrat

**Sarah Olney MP**
Richmond Park
Liberal Democrat

**Sarah Russell MP**
Congleton
Labour

**Seamus Logan MP**
Aberdeenshire North and Moray East
SNP

**Sharon Hodgson MP**
Washington and Gateshead South
Labour

**Sorcha Eastwood MP**
Lagan Valley
Alliance

**Steff Aquarone MP**
North Norfolk
Liberal Democrat

**Steve Darling MP**
Torbay
Liberal Democrat

**Susan Murray MP**
Mid Dunbartonshire
Liberal Democrat

**Tessa Munt MP**
Wells and Mendip Hills
Liberal Democrat

**Tim Farron MP**
Westmorland and Lonsdale
Liberal Democrat

**Tom Gordon MP**
Harrogate and Knaresborough
Liberal Democrat

**Tom Morrison MP**
Cheadle
Liberal Democrat

**Victoria Collins MP**
Harpenden and Berkhamsted
Liberal Democrat

**Vikki Slade MP**
Mid Dorset and North Poole
Liberal Democrat

**Wendy Chamberlain MP**
North East Fife
Liberal Democrat

**Wera Hobhouse MP**
Bath
Liberal Democrat

**Will Forster MP**
Woking
Liberal Democrat

**Zoe Franklin MP**
Guildford
Liberal Democrat