



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5, MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2HB

Tel: 020 7218 9000 (switchboard)

ALISTAIR CARNS DSO OBE MC MP
Minister for Veterans and People

Our ref: MC2025/15160
Your ref: GS08451

8 July 2025

Dear Gregory,

Thank you for your email of 13 June 2025 to the Secretary of State for Defence on behalf of your constituent, Mr Paul Hillman of [REDACTED], regarding the progress of the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme (FRS). I am replying as the Minister responsible for this matter. I understand Mr Hillman also wrote directly to the Defence Secretary on this matter, and I would be grateful if he would accept this as a response to both of your correspondences.

I was sorry to learn of the difficulties Mr Hillman has had in receiving payment from the FRS and for the impact the process has had on her mental health. The way LGBT Veterans were treated previously was appalling, and the FRS is a core element of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) righting that wrong.

Whilst I am unable to give a definite timeline for the resolution of any specific case, I can assure you that the FRS is continuing to make progress with applications, with process capacity expected to increase in the coming months.

The FRS is continually looking for opportunities to automate processes where possible, to streamline processing and to work as efficiently as possible processing applications, taking account of the complexity and need for careful consideration. We are also working on how to simplify the process to update applicants, who can contact the Restorative Action Team directly at the following email address: lgbt-frscheme@mod.gov.uk

As of 23 June 2025, the FRS had made payments of £3.4 Million to 69 applicants. We have been prioritising payment to the elderly and those with serious health conditions to ensure they receive support as quickly as possible, with the first payments issued as planned within 15 weeks of the scheme going live to these prioritised groups. Some cases are more complex and require additional time due to the unique and individual circumstances involved.

The MOD will continue to keep resourcing under close review to ensure the FRS is fully supported. This includes assessing whether additional staff are required to manage demand and maintain the timely assessment of claims. The MOD continues to monitor

Gregory Stafford MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

the overall progress of claims and remains committed to ensuring the scheme is delivered as efficiently and fairly as possible.

Mr Hillman may be interested to know that the MOD expects to increase the frequency of Independent Panel sittings, with the aim of holding up to two sittings per week.

I hope this is helpful and Mr Hillman's claim is resolved soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Carns', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ALISTAIR CARNS MP