

10 September 07

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Ministry of Defence
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Dear Mr Twigg,

I have received from Mrs G.Geekie of your Department a letter dated 25 August 07 purporting to be a response to my Open Letter to yourself which is now displayed on my website.

Her second paragraph reads that "there is nothing more that can be added to what the Minister has set out in his letters to your MP. John Greenway dated 28 February 07 and 18 July 07"

The statement is as absurd as it is false, Mr Twigg, but probably not Mrs Geekie's fault. The responsibility for that rests entirely with yourself.

I was initially disposed to take it as an impertinence from you, as a Junior Minister, only just born in the same year as my devastating illness on active service in Malaya, here contemptuously delegates my case to one of your civil servants.

Meanwhile you continue to cause me immense and wholly undeserved deprivation each passing day, by ignoring crucial observations and questions put to you by my MP and myself. Each time you commit each act of maladministration you add to the instances defined under Government Accounting 18.1.3. (See Indictment 1 on page 2).

Since you took up your post you have when responding to my MP, mimicked the one ludicrous declaration you inherited from respectively Dr Moonie and Ivor Caplin , that *. Major Perkins was always entitled to appeal that decision, but chose not to do so until 1998*".You concluded your paragraph with "This is a central point in so far as the level of compensation awarded."

You have had proof from my 4-page statement "MoD Misunderstanding" (see website) that it was utterly impossible for me to have acted as you keep repeating. I have twice challenged you, and still do to dispute a word of that paper. You fail to do so because you

know you cannot; *ergo* you have accepted it. That has a double consequence. First it defines your statement above in red to be a thumping lie. Secondly and pleasantly it confirms that we, (you and I) have no dispute, so the IDR process becomes irrelevant.

It was from the outset impossible for me to have applied for something which never reached me until now in 2007 and which I never knew existed until 1998, 4 decades later.

I am acutely incensed by your treatment of my MP John Greenway who has been campaigning indefatigably year after year on my behalf, first successfully over my rebate and since 2004 and now just as determinably for my recompense.

It is indefensible and discourteous of you to have ignored the many carefully reasoned points questions and arguments he has put to you on my behalf since January last year.

Therefore, in response to that ridiculous declaration Mrs Geekie was persuaded to send, "that there is nothing more that can be added to what the Minister has set out in his letters to your MP. John Greenway dated 28 February 07 and 18 July 07" I will list below eight specific instances of neglect whereby John Greenway's work has been gratuitously mismanaged.

In his introductory letter to you dated 10 January 06 John Greenway drew your attention to certain of the Government Accounting Rules which appear to be directly pertinent to my case. He sent you a copied extract from the rules, and then to assist you further he indicated the following specific cases as directly relevant to my case.

Government Accounting 18.1.3 ("Reply to reasonable questions")

In your reply to John's letter dated 28 February 07 you totally ignored * responding to this complaint, which had been equally ignored by Ivor Caplin when put to him on 25 March 05.

[Indictment 1](#)

Government Accounting 18.7.19 (" Financial suffering from delay") As*
Government Accounting 18.7.6 – " being equitable") above.
Government Accounting 18.7.6 - " consistency and being fair")

[Indictment 2](#)

Government Accounting 18.7.10 - "failure to put into place suitable)
Guidance." NB this accords with)
a subsequent abortive search for)
details and composition of the)
setting up of Project Haven. RLP)

[Indictment 3](#)

Government Accounting 18.7.24 hardship – result causing a sub-
stantial deterioration in standards
of livng.

[Indictment 4](#)

Request. (p2 of letter of 10.1.07 John Greenway to Derek Twigg)

"This is a gross injustice which I urge you to correct. What kind of an argument is it that says that we will pay you compensation because we wrongly taxed you where your record was correct, but we will not pay compensation if we wrongly taxed you where your record was incorrect?

Subsequently totally ignored by Veterans Minister

[Indictment 5](#)

Also requested from same letter above p3

“That wrongful taxation meant that for more than 40 years Major Perkins has been existing as he is now on an already halved pension, the value of which was then further reduced by being wrongly taxed. Project Haven was established to compensate such veterans. I urge you now to treat Major Perkins in a similar fashion and make the long overdue recompense to him.”

Subsequently totally ignored by Veterans Minister

[Indictment 6](#)

NB It is quite disgraceful that my MP John Greenway, who has the outsize constituency of Ryedale to contend with, took time meticulously to identify and lay out to help you so much detailed work, only to have it totally ignored in your response to his letter.(RLP).

Question on p.2 of letter John Greenway to Derek Twigg of 28.2.07.

“Also, on the question of appeal as Major Perkins points out that until he received the letter from the APC in Glasgow dated 9th October 1998 suggesting that he might have was anything on which to appeal. If the poor man has been chucked out of the Army been affected by the error of wrongful taxation, he had not the faintest idea that there, with nowhere to live, effectively scrabbling round for a hospital bed to find treatment for his mental state directly resulting from active service in Malaya how could anyone now claim that he should have appealed something he didn't even know about?

Subsequently totally ignored by Veterans Minister

[Indictment 7](#)

View requesting action from penultimate paragraph of same letter

“ It will be obvious to your officials that I have spent years fighting Major Perkins' case. I remain firmly of the view that he has been treated shamefully and is entitled to compensation in the same way that Project Haven pensioners were recompensed.

Subsequently totally ignored by Veterans Minister

[Indictment 8](#)

The foregoing 8 instances of neglect not only nearly all contravene current Government Rules but also provide at least 8 specific failures of Ministerial responsibility which prove the sheer travesty of the previous quotation in the letter of 28 August 07 repeated here:-

“there is nothing more that can be added to what the Minister has set out in his letters to your MP. John Greenway dated 28 Feb 07 and 18 July 07”

Switching now to your letter of 28 Feb 07 to which John Greenway commented in his reply that “I would welcome sight of the records which support the MoD's argument”, his wish has been granted by the enclosure with Mrs Geekie's letter. This was a copy of the actual original letter you have quoted from the Ministry of Pensions 42 years ago intended to declare my right to appeal, - the precise point printed in red on page 1 above quoting from your own letter. The address is shown as 18 Dorchester Rd Poole, dated 30th January 1959 as I predicted in “MoD Misunderstandings”- see website link..

I now refer you Mr Twigg, to that paper at paragraphs 5 and 6 respectively. I quote:-

“I have no reason to doubt that the decision referred to would certainly have been issued at some stage after my retirement, and possibly sent to my mother's address in Poole Dorset where she had been widowed on 17th of December 1958, just before Christmas. I

was allowed out to go to her from Netley Hospital where I was a patient following my breakdown at HQ Western Command in late 1958."

"After Christmas and the bereavement period I was out of touch with her for some time. My brother and I were trying to find her a retirement home somewhere in the Petersfield area. I was only intermittently in touch and she would have sent on any letters."

The crucial letter which you so persistently seek to try to use in order to continue the injustice and deprivation I have been enduring since 2004 **was not written as you can see from the attached copy, until a month after the above traumas and my own homelessness began. I was then thrown untrained for civilian life on a half-pension at the height of my mental illness which struck me in Perak State four years before.**

I emphasize the date of that missing letter, - 30th January 1959.

Whether a small buff envelope ever reached my mother is conjectural. She might by then have found a new address. Whether she ever received it, noticed it, threw it away, held on to it, lost it, can never be known. In my condition, wherever I was at that time, perhaps in London or Hampshire, I was by then in the throes of a pathological revulsion from all things military which took years to subside. If you have read about the earlier story in Malaya and the later psychiatrist's report you should be able to understand why that was so. I never saw the letter even if it reached the Poole address. I had no reason to have gone back there after my mother had presumably left..

As to the copy of the letter I now see for the first time in my 90th year, I never even knew it existed until 42 years later in 1998.

I strongly recommend you to understand the conditions which have blighted my entire life, maritally, domestically, creatively and financially, for over 40 years arising from the breakdown and persist now as day by day you continue to mulct me of my recompense as undeniably proved due to me by the fact that my full rebate was paid to me.

Please do not repeat the 'Project Haven' ploy. The intent of the recompense declared in Parliament on 8 June 99, whilst issued to the benefit of those identified as acceptable claimants for Project Haven, would never have been allowed, in the course of common law, to exclude others who for different reasons. (such as my own), were never able either to claim as invited, the Ministerial letter, (had they received it at all), or even to have known that it existed. That proves a careless flaw in the original drafting of the scheme, not unlike the larger 1998 "bombshell" of the courageous and still unrewarded Major John Perry in exposing the scandal of the illegal taxation of Armed Forces pensioners disabled due to Service.

I hope, Derek Twigg, that you may yet add to your credibility by repelling the heartless manipulations of a limited but very real mindset within MoD officialdom, bent as ever,

with one eye on the Treasury, to economize by robbing the late comfort in retirement of disabled servicemen and women ; such as myself.

I am convinced there are others in my plight. Of course you have to deny all the malpractice but given the time I can prove it. The damning evidence of Tim Slessor's book "Lying in State" will convince any doubters.

It is to be hoped you will be able now, without loss of face , to redeem your previous attitude and strain every sinew to recompense, eagerly, enthusiastically, all Armed Forces personnel retired disabled due to service who for one reason or another have never even received the letter notifying the right to appeal.

In that context Mr Twigg a little lateral thinking would not be amiss - actively to seek out widows and other dependents of some who might have applied and met the same implacable bureaucratic jungle.

It would be heartening for the MoD to divest itself of its pockets of negativity and be seen as a benefactor not the persecutor as it has been for me and for an unquantifiable number of others. If my website can help I will pass the names to you..

Lastly let me remind you of what your immediate predecessor Tom Watson declared on 6th of June last year, "**where service in the Armed Forces has harmed people I can assure you that MoD and the UK Government stands ready to provide full and appropriate financial and other recompense.**" What is your response to Tom Watson, Mr Twigg.? How do you gauge "harm "? In reality **harm** has obviously come not only to me as seen in the website link under MoD Misunderstanding, but to younger people now tragically being invalidated back from the Middle East as I write. Young and old are your custodians in a rôle you should be proud to hold for the potential good it presents.

Do you agree with Tom's benevolent edict and act accordingly? We will be watching.

Yours sincerely

Richard Leigh Perkins. Major (retd). The Royal Leicestershire Regiment