

Colonel Terry Scriven
Chairman
UK National Defence Medal Campaign

Sir Jonathan Stephens KCB
Permanent Under-Secretary
Northern Ireland Office/
Chairman Honours, Decorations and Medals Committee
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

31st July 2017

Dear Sir Jonathan,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 July 2017. I note the only restrictive caveat now on my complaint is one of 'official'.

I am disappointed with the investigation carried out by a nameless former senior civil servant, which you initiated on 30 March 2017 in response to my complaint to both the Prime Minister and the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 14 February 2017. The investigation report, completed on 23 May 2017, contains many anomalies and glosses over a number of the key issues both in respect of the proposed National Defence Medal and the military medal review overall.

Your apology in respect of the erroneous costs of the NDM presented to Parliament by two of its Members representing the Cabinet Office is accepted. I look forward to this situation being rectified once Parliament has returned from their summer recess. However, I do not accept that this misinformation which clearly had been circulating within the Cabinet Office for some considerable time did not influence the decision subsequently made by the Honours, Decorations and Medals Committee.

As Chairman of the National Defence Medal campaign I will now consider what avenues are still open to me in respect of laying bare a discredited military medal review. I am sure the leaders of the many other medallic campaigns will wish to make their own position known to both you and the First Secretary of State as a result of this less than satisfactory investigation.

It was surprising that the new developments I outlined to you in my letters dated 8 and 11 April 2017 and requested be included in the investigation have been totally ignored.

In conclusion, the previous Prime Minister David Cameron directed that the military medal review would be both open and transparent. It's aim was to address the claims from veteran groups who had contributed to keeping this Nation and its interests safe and secure since the ending of the Second World War so that a 'line could be drawn in the sand' once and for all in respect of their medallic recognition. Sadly this has not been the case with both the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Defence spending an inordinate amount of time and taxpayers' money

in keeping details of this flawed medal review out of the public domain. This inadequate investigation has further added to their disappointment.

I have noted that you do not intend to correspond with me further on this issue so I do not expect a reply which in its self is a disappointment.

Yours sincerely
Terry Scriven

Copy to:

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP – Prime Minister

The Rt Hon Damian Green MP – First Secretary of State and Minister for the Cabinet Office