

Appendix 2f



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2HB

Tel: 020 7218 9000 (switchboard)

ALISTAIR CARNS OBE MC MP
Minister for Veterans and People

Our ref: POA2024/19373

28 October 2024

Dear Mr Catherall,

Thank you for your letter of 17 July 2024 to the Secretary of State for Defence, on behalf of Oldham Council, regarding discounted gym/leisure passes for veterans. I am responding as the Minister for Veterans and People. I am sorry for the length of time it has taken to respond to you.

I was pleased to learn that the Oldham Council is seeking ways of supporting the Oldham veteran population and I am grateful for the work you and Oldham Council are doing in this sphere. Veterans' well-being is a priority and we appreciate that their fitness is of importance to their physical and mental health.

I am aware that some local authorities do offer concessionary rates to their own leisure facilities, to both members of the armed forces and veterans, and I welcome any support that is provided. I must advise, however, that there are currently no plans to offer free or reduced gym membership subscriptions to veterans nationally.

We will continue to work with officials from the Office for Veterans' Affairs to explore options for improving the support available to our veteran community, including those which promote health and wellbeing.

I am sorry to send what will come as a disappointing reply, but I hope this explains the position.



ALISTAIR CARNS OBE MC MP