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MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL WELFARE AND VETERANS

Our ref: D/Min(DPWV)/AR MC04143/2010

1 October 2010

*Dw David,*

Thank you for your letter of 14 September regarding concerns raised by a number of your constituents about changes to the Ministry of Defence health and welfare service for civil service staff.

I readily acknowledge the importance of these services to MOD's civilian employees, and I know the support that the welfare service gives to staff and the wider organisation is valued by employees and managers alike.

In the light of the severe financial constraints that all departments now face, however, it is right that we consider all possible options for providing health and welfare services in the future - either in-house as now, through a contractor or a mixture of the two - taking into account the needs and wishes expressed by employees, including your constituents, and their managers.

The review of these services is continuing and, in accordance with Departmental rules and procedures, the Trades Unions have been consulted on, and are participating in, the work. I would stress that no final decision has yet been taken on the outcome.

I hope that the above clearly explains the approach being taken on this important issue.

*Yours,  
Andrew*

**ANDREW ROBATHAN MP**

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