



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

HOUSING FOR CURRENT AND FORMER SERVICEMEN –

Thank you for contacting me about housing for current and former servicemen. I heartily agree that those who have served their country deserve the best treatment we can give them, both while they are within the armed forces and afterwards.

The Armed Forces Covenant is clear that serving personnel and veterans should be given high priority when it comes to healthcare and social housing and I am proud that it was enshrined in law. The financial commitment to the Covenant is being made permanent with a £10 million a year fund in perpetuity.

The Forces Help to Buy scheme allows servicemen and women to borrow up to 50 per cent of their salary, up to a maximum of £25,000, so that they can either buy their first home or move to another property on assignment. More than 10,000 personnel have been helped to buy their home through the scheme, which has been extended until 2018 so that even more people can benefit.

New funding through London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) fines has doubled the total amount given to armed forces' and veterans' charities. Thousands of veterans are expected to benefit from this additional £40 million of funding, which will help charities build new homes, buy new accommodation or spruce up old facilities. This includes £8.5 million for Mike Jackson House in Hampshire which supports homeless veterans.

The first ever armed forces families' strategy has also been published and accommodation is included as one of its seven key themes.

I hope this reassures you that this Government is supporting current and ex-service personnel to find the security of a home that they deserve.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP