

To Chris Stewart - For Information

VETERANS' TASK FORCE - MINUTES

I attach a copy of the minutes from the Veterans' Task Force, held on 15 May 2002, for your action and retention. Thank you for your continued support, I would be grateful if you would note in your diaries that the next meeting of the Task Force has been scheduled to take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 20th November. The venue will be the Defence Council Suite, Old War Office Building.

Best wishes
L Moonie

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

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**MINUTES OF THE VETERANS' TASK FORCE MEETING HELD IN THE
DEFENCE COUNCIL SUITE, OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING ON 15 MAY
2002**

Chairman:

Dr Lewis Moonie MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs
(accompanied by Tina Kent, PS/USofS)

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Don Touhig - Under Secretary of State for Wales
George Foulkes - Minister of State for Scotland
Hon Councillor Joan Taylor – Local Government Association

**Confederation of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations
(COBSEO):**

Brig Ian Townsend - Secretary General, The Royal British Legion (TRBL)
Brig A K Dixon - Vice Chairman, COBSEO

Task Force Members Apologies:

Baroness Valerie Amos - PUSofS FCO
John Healey - PUSofS DfES
John Hutton - Minister of State for Health
Rosie Winterton - PUSofS LCD
Jane Kennedy - Minister of State NIO
Keith Bradley - Minister of State HO
Ruth Kelly - Economic Secretary to the Treasury
Maria Eagle - PUSofS DWP
Sally Keeble - PUSofS DTLR
Margaret Curran - Deputy Minister for Social Justice Scottish Executive
Jane Hutt - Minister for Health and Social Services National Assembly for Wales

Officials from Other Government Departments in Attendance:

Anne Stephenson - DoH
Charles Chappell - DTLR
Roy Goodacre - HMT
Hilary Reynolds - DWP

MoD:

Liz McLoughlin - Director General Service Personnel Policy
Jonathan Iremonger - Director Service Personnel Policy (Pensions & Veterans)
Alan Burnham - Acting Chief Executive Veterans Agency

Veterans Affairs Secretariat:

Mike Sands - Deputy Director
Lt Col David Broadfoot - Assistant Director
Guy Brewer - Veterans' Secretariat

ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS BY MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The minutes of the first Task Force meeting held on 6th November were approved and other Government Departments were thanked for clearing action points. **Dr Moonie** welcomed all those attending and, in particular, the Hon Councillor Mrs Joan Taylor from Nottingham County Council who joined the Task Force in her role as the Local Government Association's Champion for Older People's Issues.

ITEM 2 – REVIEW FIRST YEAR'S PROGRESS

Dr Moonie outlined progress made since the Prime Minister launched the Veterans' Initiative on 14th March 2001. The first Task Force meeting in November 2001 agreed that the first priority was to develop policies that addressed a range of veterans issues but with a particular focus on the needs of the most vulnerable. Task Force members had emphasised the importance of tackling the root causes of vulnerability - for example ensuring proper access to health care for those affected by military operations, or preventing veterans from falling into social exclusion as they take the step back into civilian life.

It was therefore gratifying that Government Departments, including the Treasury, Work and Pensions, Education and Skills, Health and Transport, Local Government and the Regions, had all contributed funds towards a £100k research programme to improve understanding of the problems faced by veterans and the factors that gave rise to these problems. The Working Group steering this research had been asked to provide a draft report for consideration by the Task Force as decisions were made for the next spending round.

The Veterans Task Force had already provided evidence of the benefits to be gained from better co-ordinated Government working, particularly in the area of establishing priority need for local authority housing for those vulnerable to homelessness. The DTLR's Rough Sleepers Unit had been commended for their work in partnership with the voluntary sector and MOD, which had succeeded in meeting the target of reducing the number of rough sleepers by two-thirds by April 2002. This had included new legislation, joint investment in sheltered accommodation by government and the veterans' benevolent funds, and improvements to MOD's resettlement procedures.

The DTLR had set up a new Homelessness Directorate to co-ordinate the response by local authorities to the new Priority Needs Order. In turn MOD was working to formalise veterans' access to the local authority Homelessness Officers through the English Churches Housing Group SPACES project at Catterick Garrison and the Shelter project at the Military Correction and Training Centre in Colchester. The MOD had allocated £145k per year for these two projects from 2002 onwards.

At the previous Task Force meeting it had been agreed that the long-term success of the Veterans' Initiative would depend on building requirements into planning at the strategic level. MOD had led the way by setting itself a new strategic objective to assist "armed forces personnel to make a successful and productive transition back to civilian life so that at least 85% of Service leavers find employment within 6 months of leaving the Services". This was expected to bring wider benefits for other Government Departments and the charitable sector that have to deal with the problems of social exclusion among veterans.

To capitalise on the its new ownership of the War Pensions Agency and the Agency's reputation for customer service, the MoD had given the War Pensions Agency a new role in providing a special focus for support to veterans and, to reflect this change, had on 2 April renamed it 'The Veterans' Agency'. The primary role of the Agency would be one of partnership and co-ordination, providing an advice point and sign-posting organisation to a range of government services. The new service would be delivered through a free Helpline, providing a more capable "first port of call" for advice to veterans and their dependants. This would be complemented by a one-stop-shop veterans' website.

In partnership with the veteran's organisations, MOD had developed a modern policy framework, recognised by the Cabinet Office as an example of best practice in Better Policy-Making. This policy was still under development and was being kept under review with partners on the Veterans Forum. It was relatively easy to make a good policy, the challenge was implementation. This was the task of the 9 Working Groups. It was made clear that there are areas where clearer focus and more effort were required to deliver early results. However, there had been substantial progress and **Dr Moonie** was satisfied that the working groups had made acceptable progress in their first few months. Expectations needed to be realistic as it would take another few months for all the working groups to begin to deliver. **Dr Moonie** had asked working group chairmen to produce detailed reports for the autumn, although his door was always open if there were a need for more guidance or to report results in the interim period.

Action: All Working Groups

The MOD had also been looking at how the new Veterans Agency could help to co-ordinate improvements to service delivery and a review of the Veterans Agency Welfare Service was now underway. The focus would remain on war pensioners and war widows - and it was important that the very high standard of service provided to this key group should be maintained. The veterans charitable sector also had work in hand to look at how they might deliver their welfare services in a more co-ordinated way. It had been agreed that Government and the veterans charitable sector should continue to work together to reduce duplication of effort and improve information sharing. The review of the Welfare Service would look at the full range of models in considering how to develop a wider service, and this should include taking any lessons from the Home Office's Experience Corps, the Business In the

Community programme, the DoH's Care in the Community programme, the DWP's Winning the Generation Game and Older People Strategy, and the many local authority initiatives. Alan Burnham the Acting Chief Executive of the Veterans Agency would continue discussion with interested parties over the coming months, and would report back in July.

Action: Veterans

Agency

Ian Townsend (Secretary General of the Royal British Legion) thanked the Minister and expressed pleasure at attending the second meeting of the Veterans' Task Force along with Brigadier Tony Dixon, the Vice Chairman of COBSEO. Ian Townsend confirmed that he was generally happy with first year's progress. There had been 2 Plenary Sessions with a broad attendance of ex-Service organisations. The year had been inevitably something of a learning year for everyone. Previously the ex-Service organisations had dealt individually with a plethora of Departments and ministers, and COBSEO were gradually getting used to dealing in a more 'joined-up' way on broad issues. It was important that bilateral access on specific matters continued, for example with the Home Office on Remembrance weekend organisation, and with DWP and with DLTR on matters relating to individuals' benefit entitlements.

The Working Groups were settling down though, in some specific areas, they had not yet added greatly to work that had already been put in train and there should be care not to avoid duplication. There was a need to review progress of all Working Groups in 6 months time to assess output. Broadly COBSEO welcomed the wider involvement of Whitehall and the devolved administrations but it was clear that the expectations of veterans' organisations were high and, inevitably at this early stage, there were areas where the success of the initiative had yet to be proved. The veterans' community were pleased to be working with government on the inside and were beginning to see prospects for real progress. COBSEO acknowledged the commitment of Dr Moonie as veterans' champion and thanked both Dr Moonie and his ministerial colleagues for their positive attention to veterans' issues. COBSEO looked forward to the next Task Force meeting and chalking up further successes once veterans' needs had been more clearly identified.

Dr Moonie agreed that bilateral meetings with individual Departments should continue. He had no desire to inhibit this, but asked those involved to circulate the results of bi-lateral discussions to all Task Force Members if they were likely to be of wider interest.

Action: All Task Force

Brigadier Dixon (Vice Chairman, COBSEO) confirmed that expectations were high, but he had noted a strong degree of realism. Veterans realised that there was still a long way to go.

Dr Moonie thanked COBSEO for their support and closed by saying that an effective veterans champion within Government had to realise that the wishes

of all veterans could not be satisfied. There were clear areas where there was a prospect of success, but he would not undertake to do something when he knew that he could not succeed. When he did take on an issue he would follow it through.

ITEM 3 – PROGRESS OF WORKING GROUPS

Jonathon Iremonger (Director Service Personnel Policy (Pensions & Veterans)) advised the Task Force that the nine Working had only had 6 months to take forward the action plan agreed at the last Task Force meeting. Given the time required to agree the terms of reference and membership for each group, the effective working time had been rather shorter.

The complexity of the issues to be addressed had varied and this had affected the rate of progress. However, work was well in hand on each and in some cases there had already been tangible progress. **Working Group 7** had been tasked with considering measures to improve resettlement training for most vulnerable Service leavers. A pilot project to provide advice through professional consultants for the more vulnerable leavers had been in place since March 2001. It was planned that this should be a first step towards a wider network of consultants providing information and advice. This was expected to bring real benefits and had been targeted towards helping those at risk. In addition the new arrangements should lead to improved liaison with ex-Service organisations, central Government services such as Job Centre Plus, and local authorities.

Working Group 6 had been tasked to commission research on the nature and causes of the problems faced by veterans, in order to provide an evidence-base for future policy decisions by the Task Force. Funds and benefit in kind worth £100k from across a range of Government Departments had been secured. It was anticipated that a contract would be let by the middle of this year and that initial feedback on findings would be produced by September to feed through to evidence-based policy decisions for the next public spending round.

Working Group 4, led by the Royal British Legion, had produced a co-ordinated package of material on veterans' achievements for the citizenship module of key stages 3 & 4 of the national curriculum. This was designed to assist the recognition of veterans' achievements among the young. The package was on target for delivery for the start of the new academic year.

Working Group 1 had looked for Government PSAs in which there might be a distinct veterans' component to a problem which merited action in its own right. The model for this was the close co-operation that has been built up between DTLR, MOD and the charitable sector to address the ex-Service component of rough sleeping. MOD had mainstreamed the funding for the initial projects and were now looking at how these projects might be built on. The Home Office had been asked to consider whether there might be a discrete veterans' component within the prison population for which separate

action was required and the Services Families Task force were working with the Lord Chancellors Department with regard to preventing family break-up.

Working Group 3 had found practical difficulties in taking forward its work on a Veterans' Identity Card. In particular, the idea of encouraging take-up through linkage to a discounted purchasing scheme conflicted with the existing membership schemes offered by a number of the charities. At the recent Veterans Forum, it had been agreed that the possibility of linkage to travel discounts should be considered as an alternative. This was in hand.

Working Group 5 had been looking at improving the public recognition of veterans achievements, and had focused in particular on the scope for developing educational and research facilities at the new National Memorial for those killed on duty since World War Two, which the Defence Secretary had recently agreed should be located at the National Memorial Arboretum at Lichfield. The project might be eligible for lottery funding but some Government contribution might also be sought.

Working Group 8 on the Armed Forces Pensions and Compensation Reviews had so far been pursued within the context of the current major departmental reviews. There had been meetings with interested veterans' organisations on how to proceed following public consultation, but the way ahead would need to be considered in the light of a recent report from the House of Commons Defence Committee.

Working Group 9, led by the Department of Health, had addressed the concern of the ex-Service charities that recent legislation to raise care home standards could push many of their homes out of business. The Group had had a successful first meeting at which the Government's current policies and its consequential effect on the ex-Service charities had been discussed, and veterans concerns explored. It had been agreed that this first meeting would be followed up with more information and a programme of visits to a local authority where the new Care Direct and the associated system of direct payments had already been implemented.

Working Group 2 had been examining communications. This was a pivotal area in terms of understanding veterans' concerns and getting the message across about the success that had already been achieved. Under DWP chairmanship, the group had begun work to identify existing veterans' media and to draw up a strategy. Practical steps had also been taken within the Ministry of Defence to establish a better-integrated helpline and website for veterans. However, the immediate priority was to put in place a short-term strategy to communicate the achievements of the initiative so far.

Inevitably not all groups had moved equally fast and concern had been expressed at the Veterans Forum that in some cases the Working Group process was insufficiently flexible to address the challenges faced. In discussion, it had been accepted that the core partnership principle should not be sacrificed for a more directed approach, or for a more streamlined but exclusive working group membership.

Broadly the Forum had confirmed the direction of the working groups and welcomed those areas of progress. Inevitably expectations were high and these had not yet been fulfilled in every case. However, the partnership that had been built up was constructive, and there was a genuine commitment to co-operating to develop pragmatic solutions to problems.

Jonathan Iremonger concluded by proposing three areas where the Task Force might focus its consideration of the initiative:

- Whether the direction and progress of the Working Groups was satisfactory;
- Whether the way in which interested government departments were being drawn into this work is meeting the initiatives objectives; and
- Whether we were achieving the Prime Minister's objectives of a more integrated approach to veterans concerns.

Ian Townsend (Secretary General of the Royal British Legion) agreed on behalf of COBSEO that real progress had been achieved, in particular with the focus on resettlement issues for the most vulnerable. The veterans' organisations had been engaged on this matter, through ESAG for some time. COBSEO were pleased that the funding to assist the SPACES project at Catterick and Shelter project at Colchester was now in place and hoped that more would be forthcoming.

It was now important to ensure that the initiative also addressed the concerns of the wider ex-Service community, including dependants. Service personnel served on unlimited liability contracts and deserved special treatment. In that context, the role of **Working Group 6** to research veterans' needs in the round was vital and the fact that funding had been made available for this work was welcomed. The importance of this Working Group could not be underestimated and should lead to agreed programmes to address specific needs.

Working Group 3 had so far only focussed on the matter of an ID card. There might be value in this but a card needed to bring clear advantages and there would need to be full consultation with those organisations who already offered ID cards and affinity services. The issue of an ID card was, however, secondary to the basic issue of veterans' identity and this needed more work. The wider issue of what it was to be a veteran and the veterans' place in society should be linked with the work of Working Groups 2, 4 and 5. He recommended that Working Group 3 should revisit its Terms of Reference to look again at the basic issues of veterans identity.

He agreed that **Working Group 4** had made good progress towards contributing to citizenship in the new National Curriculum.

The veterans' community attached particular importance to the work of **Working Group 9**. There was a requirement to take a strategic look at what

the home care needs would be in future and plan to meet them. **Working Group 9's** remit was long-term care. In 10 years time the ex-Service population would number 3.5M plus 4.5M dependants: the majority of this 8M would be over 65 - a sizeable slice of the UK population. The Veterans Initiative had rightly focussed on the need for better planning for long-term care and the ex-Service organisations had an important part to play in both definition and delivery of the care requirement. Working Group 9 had a real opportunity to add value. **Ian Townsend** considered that this would turn out to be the most important area for those involved and a real test for joined-up Government.

George Foulkes, Minister of State for Scotland, said that he was greatly impressed by his first attendance at the Task Force. From his perspective the progress made in the first year was remarkable by comparison with similar initiatives elsewhere in Government. This suggested to him that the main problem was that progress was not visible in the public domain. Better communication was essential to success. It was agreed that the Veterans Agency would work with DGCC to produce material for communication through the channels being developed by Working Group 2. Offers of help and suggested target areas were noted as follows:

- TRBL magazine and website
- LGA network
- DWP network
- National Assembly for Wales
- SAGA magazine
- Veterans Agency Magazine

Action: VeteransAgency/DGCC/WG 2

Alan Burnham (VA) acknowledged the importance of getting the work of the Veterans Initiative more widely known. At present the VA newspaper was exclusive to war disability pensioners, was circulated to a relatively small number of veterans and was inward looking. He had commissioned work to make it more outward looking and of broader appeal to the whole veterans population.

Liz McLoughlin (Director General Service Personnel Policy) pointed out that care would need to be taken to reach those veterans who were not currently members of the veterans' organisations, given that only 1 million of the 8 million population were currently registered.

Joan Taylor (LGA) agreed that, because a significant part of the over 65 population were veterans, it would be more effective to communicate with the whole group. Local government should be able to assist in this.

Hilary Reynolds (DWP) confirmed that they would continue to take the lead on this through the work of the Cabinet's Ministerial Sub-Committee on Older People.

Dr Moonie concluded that it was important for the whole veteran population to realise that there had been a sea change in the way their concerns were being addressed. The veterans' organisations were working with Government and had prioritised some of the many issues of concern and these had been incorporated into an action plan that was now beginning to bear fruit.

ITEM 4 – REVIEW OF OGD ISSUES

1. Qualifying Time for Incapacity Benefit

Dr Moonie said that MOD was aiming to establish by October a DWP-approved process for certifying any periods of incapacity for work. It was envisaged that this should meet the requirements of the DWP's proposed clerical work around.

Hilary Reynolds (DWP) advised that there remained difficulties in establishing whether primary or secondary legislation was required to enable this change or whether it could be made through regulation. The IT Modernisation programme in DWP was taking up a significant amount of resources, and there was concern about the resources required to train staff to implement the work around.

Liz McLoughlin (Director General Service Personnel Policy) asked DWP why, given the small numbers involved and the fact that there would be at least 6 months notice prior to them drawing the benefit, this could not be managed centrally. Those affected were a particularly vulnerable group as not only were they being medically discharged, but they had generally only served a short time and would not receive a significant pension. It was agreed that this should be dealt with through a meeting between the MOD's Director General Service Personnel and Chris Cappella from DWP.

Action: MOD/DWP

2. Failure of some Local Authorities to disregard fully War Pension payments when means-testing for Housing Benefit.

Dr Moonie drew to the Task Force's attention the concerns of veterans expressed at the Plenary Forum and the Veterans Agency's Central Advisory Committee that some local authorities in England were not implementing the discretionary disregard of war pensions when means-testing for housing benefit. This led to inequitable differences of treatment of veterans across the United Kingdom. **Dr Moonie** asked the official from DWP and Joan Taylor (LGA) for advice.

Hilary Reynolds (DWP) advised that, following discussion at the Forum on 1 May, HMT officials had agreed to take this matter to the relevant HMT team for assessment. DWP were providing HMT with background information so that a business case would be developed for Dr Moonie's consideration.

Action: DWP/HMT/LGA/COBSEO

Joan Taylor (LGA) said that, in the meantime, she would be happy to work with TRBL to persuade the remaining 3% of Local Authorities in England to reconsider their position.

Action: LGA/TRBL

Dr Moonie asked to be kept informed of progress because many of those at local level affected by local authority means-testing could not be expected to continue lobbying owing to their increasing age and vulnerability.

3. Update from Devolved Administrations

Dr Moonie then asked Don Touhig, Under Secretary of State for Wales, for an update on developments in Wales.

Don Touhig expressed pleasure at attending his first Task Force meeting and offered apologies on behalf of Jane Hutt, who has responsibility for Health and Social Services in the National Assembly for Wales.

Much was being done by the National Assembly for Wales to address the needs of those Service veterans who found themselves in disadvantaged groups. The National Assembly had found the reports from the working groups extremely helpful in focusing attention on areas of concern. Progress had been made in issuing guidance on priority treatment for war pensioners within the NHS and on the priority needs order for access to local authority housing. The National Assembly was also beginning to network with prison services and the Home Office on areas of mutual concern, particularly those which relating to mental health issues.

Dr Moonie thanked Don Touhig for his contribution and was pleased that the Veterans Initiative was being taken forward with such commitment in Wales. He then asked George Foulkes, Minister of State for Scotland, for an update on developments in Scotland.

George Foulkes advised that there had been a change in responsibility for taking forward the Veterans Initiative within the Scottish Executive. Margaret Curran had moved to Minister for Social Justice and Hugh Henry would now take her place as Deputy Minister for Social Justice. Regrettably, Hugh Henry had been unable to attend. George Foulkes advised the Task Force that a meeting had taken place in January between officials from the Scottish Executive and the Steering Committee of the Scottish Ex-Service Charitable Organisation (SESCO). The purpose of the meeting had been to allow SESCO to raise any issues of concern with the Executive and also to allow officials to update SESCO on initiatives of interest to Scottish veterans. This had been a helpful and constructive event. Following the meeting, Executive officials had taken steps to ensure that SESCO would be added to departmental distribution lists and included on all future Executive consultation exercises which were likely to impact on ex-Service veterans.

Margaret Curran had also accepted an invitation from SESCO to attend their AGM in October and details had been passed to Hugh Henry.

A significant development in Scotland of relevance to veterans affairs, was the report of the Homelessness Task Force, published in February of this year. This report was the blueprint for preventing and tackling homelessness in Scotland over the next decade. The Scottish Executive had accepted and pledged to ensure delivery of all of the Task Force's 59 recommendations. These recommendations encompassed further legislative change on homelessness eligibility criteria, a new focus on preventing homelessness, wider access to housing and more effective responses for people experiencing homelessness.

The Task Force's recommendations on improving the homelessness legislation in Scotland would be taken forward in the forthcoming Homelessness Bill which would be introduced to the Scottish Parliament later this year. The Bill expanded the categories of people to be assessed as being in priority need. Applicants who were vulnerable as a result of having been recently discharged from the armed forces would be assessed as being in priority need for housing.

Northern Ireland

For the record, **Dr Moonie** thanked the Northern Ireland Executive for their written contribution. Bairbre de Brun, the NIE Minister for Health, had reminded the Northern Ireland Health Authorities to provide priority to those in receipt of a war pension, whether as out-patients or in-patients, with respect to examination or treatment of any condition for which a war pension was being paid. The Northern Ireland Executive had agreed to extend the concessionary fares scheme for public transport for Pensioners assist to all those (including under 65s) in receipt of a War Disability Pension.

ITEM 5 - VETERANS' ISSUES LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY FORWARD LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

Dr Moonie reminded Task Force members that this item was on the agenda so that the Veterans Task Force would have the opportunity to identify any legislation likely to be of interest to the initiative. Details of the forward legislative programme for the next session would be taken from the Queen's Speech and circulated to Forum Members.

Action: VAS

1. Health and Social Care Reform - Incentives for Local Authorities to free up beds in care and residential homes.

Dr Moonie asked LGA/DoH to outline briefly how the proposals for Health and Social Care Reform outlined in the proposed legislative programme might include incentives for local authorities to work with veterans organisations providing long term residential care to provide pre- and post-operative support to free-up beds in the NHS. He highlighted that the Chancellor of the

Exchequer had drawn attention to the cost of hospital beds that are blocked through delayed discharges.

Anne Stephenson (Department of Health) explained that there was new cash from the budget to alleviate the problem of bed-blocking in the NHS through delayed discharge after the need for acute care had passed. The aim was to expand pre-and post-operative care in other settings and to increase the capacity to care for people in their own homes. Stronger incentives would be given to local authorities.

Joan Taylor ,from the Local Government Association, confirmed that the aim was to help people stay in their own homes for as long as possible.

Ian Townsend confirmed that TRBL were developing Day Care Centres within their care homes as part of an outreach initiative aimed at helping people stay in their own homes. Where there was spare capacity in the system, they might also include those in need of help who were not ex-Service but were in the catchment area. This was being discussed with the local authorities concerned.

Dr Moonie asked Alan Burnham to take this development into consideration in the context of the review of welfare Services.

Action: Veterans Agency

ITEM 6 – AOB

1. Easi Database

Dr Moonie closed by raising a matter on behalf of Working Group 7 whose task was to ensure that Ministry of Defence resettlement procedures maximised the possibility of a successful transition to civilian life. This included establishing best practice within resettlement procedures from the Military Corrective and Training Centre (MCTC).

The Home Office and Prison Service were co-operating in an effort to reduce repeat-offending by providing more information about the type of support available to prisoners, prior to their release.

The Home Office had suggested that the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) database should include within the Easi Project database the names of organisations willing to assist veterans in prison. MoD's Director of Resettlement had seen the CD ROM and had asked that copies be made available to the new consultants being engaged by the Career Transition Partnership to help them in their work.

Dr Moonie said that the Home Office had confirmed that Keith Bradley, Minister of State for Criminal Justice, saw advantage in this proposal and had agreed to write with a response.

Action: Home Office

2. Date of Next Meeting

Dr Moonie said that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 20th November in the Defence Council Suite of the Old War Office Building.