

16 September 2026

Dear Leader,

Request for councils' support in reaching LGBT veterans

As you may be aware, between 1967 and 2000, the Ministry of Defence upheld policy which prohibited LGBT personnel from serving in HM Armed Forces. 'The Ban' not only led to LGBT personnel having their careers cut short through no fault of their own but also led to inexcusable experiences including harassment, invasive investigations, physical or sexual assaults and imprisonment. The Government and HM Armed Forces have apologised for the historic policy and its implementation, and Defence have been providing recognition to those affected through the Financial Recognition Scheme and the Non-Financial Restorative Measures Scheme.

Veterans are able to apply for payments of up to £70,000 through the Financial Recognition Scheme, depending on their experiences, and all veterans affected by the Ban can apply for restorative measures including the return of their beret, the removal of dishonour from administrative discharges and a service ceremony in which restorative measures are presented to them through the Non-Financial Restorative Measures Scheme.

Over 1,700 veterans have applied for Financial Recognition to date and Defence is committed to continuing to ensure it does all it can to reach as many eligible veterans as possible before the Schemes close on **12 December 2026**.

Defence needs your help.

LGBT veterans can be incredibly difficult to identify and reach because many do not consider themselves veterans and do not engage with Defence or Armed Forces communications channels, and some do not engage with LGBT+ organisations either.

Recognising this, Defence have launched a 'final call' communications push which focuses heavily on working with partners who have physical and digital spaces that people aged 40 and over have access to. Partners and allies are asked to download the 'Ally Pack' from the [www.GOV.UK/affected-by-the-ban](https://www.gov.uk/affected-by-the-ban) website and use any of

the assets that are suited to their spaces. Assets include posters, leaflets, social media assets, suggested copy for newsletters and much more.

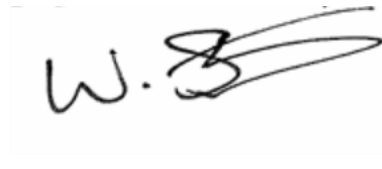
I am reaching out to you to ask you to urge your councils and public spaces such as libraries and leisure centres in your constituency to download these assets and display them in appropriate spaces to help reach these valued veterans.

If you have any questions, please contact the team at: LGBT-restorativeaction@mod.gov.uk

Time is running out and these veterans deserve recognition.

Thank you in advance for your support on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Streeting', with a stylized flourish at the end.

THE RT HON WES STREETING MP
Secretary of State for Defence