

DEFENCE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

20th MAY 2008

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

1. At the first meeting of the newly formed Defence Ministerial Committee on 20 May 2008, the Committee discussed the objectives, principles, behaviours and the types of agenda items that should govern how it conducted its business in the future. It also discussed the Government's draft Service Personnel Command Paper.

2. The Committee considered the paper that had been circulated by the Secretary¹ outlining the way the Committee planned to conduct its business in the future. It broadly agreed with the paper's recommendations, and:

- a. agreed that, to encourage a greater sense of corporate cohesion, the Committee might wish to examine the possibility of using an external coach. Defence Board members had already undergone a similar process and had found it valuable;
- b. directed the Secretariat to programme future meeting agendas to contain on all occasions at least one long term issue that would benefit from strategic direction from the Committee.

3. On the paper outlining progress on the Service Personnel Command Paper², the Committee agreed that the key points highlighted to them indicated that it was broadly on course but gave a range of directions on its further development:

- a. asked to see clear supporting evidence that the proposals contained in the paper flowed logically from the consultation and analysis that had taken place;
- b. the paper's first theme should be expressed in terms of the removal of disadvantage for regular and reserve Service Personnel in the UK and overseas; their families, and Veterans. It would also be important to ensure that the

¹ DMC(08)01

² DMC(08)02

engagement of other government departments endured and was regularly refreshed;

- c. directed that action was taken, involving the Principal Personnel Officers, to: agree the priorities for action now; test the proposed measures for practicality; and seek to quantify how many people might benefit from each;
- d. Committee members should continue to work with Other Government Departments to ensure that the paper's commitments and aspirations were agreed and implemented;
- e. acknowledged the importance that key stakeholders attached to the role of the Veterans Minister, and emphasised the importance of the Command Paper reinforcing this;
- f. gave broad direction on how issues around the Armed Forces compensation scheme might be addressed;
- g. agreed on the need for an implementation team and corresponding reference group in due course.