



Ministry  
of Defence

THE RT HON MARK FRANCOIS MP  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL, WELFARE AND VETERANS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

MSU 4/4/2/11/CC

30 September 2013

Dear Mr Powell,

Thank you for your letter of 17 July (Ref: P-04-432) regarding the Department's engagement with schools and recruiting.

The Armed Forces do not 'recruit' in schools. No pupil or school student is ever 'signed-up' or otherwise makes a commitment to become a recruit into the Armed Forces during the course of any school visit by our representatives. Armed Forces teams, however, do undertake visits to many state and private schools across the UK, but only at the specific invitation of the schools and colleges themselves.

The purpose of these visits, agreed with the schools beforehand, range from raising awareness of the Armed Forces and their place in a democratic society, to practical sessions (aligned with the National Curriculum) designed to enhance teamwork, communications and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills, as well as building interest in the Services and, in some cases, explaining the wide range of careers available. The latter visits support the schools' own careers programmes and offer advice on Service careers.

We do not record performance indicators for all of our education activities. However, research carried out in June and July 2013<sup>1</sup> for the Army shows across a sample of 303 educational establishments<sup>2</sup> from the state and independent sector, 74% felt that the Army provided impartial careers advice. Of those who felt that the Army might not be impartial in their advice 61% felt that they would still invite the Army in to provide careers presentations.

---

<sup>1</sup> EdComs Careers Advice Landscape - Summary of online and tele-depth research dated Jul 13

<sup>2</sup> 3% (9) of the sample were from Wales

William Powell AC/AM  
The National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

We firmly believe that young people should be informed about available career options and opportunities – the more information our teams can give a young person about life in the Armed Forces, the better informed he or she will be. Those who do express an interest in a possible career in the Armed Forces are advised to make contact with either an Armed Forces Careers Office or our Forces careers websites to follow up their interest. Any potential recruit under the age of 18 is accepted only if the formal consent of their parent or guardian is obtained as an essential pre-condition.

I hope this clarifies the position.

*Yours ever,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Francois', written in a cursive style.

**THE RT HON MARK FRANCOIS MP**