

Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 6BE
Tel: 01980 615525 Fax: 01980 615517 Email: chiefexec@aff.org.uk

12 December 2007

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Mr Brown

Further to our letter of 2 July 2007 expressing concern about the part time role of the Secretary of State for Defence, I would like to express further disappointment about this situation.

AFF has now learned that the Ministry of Defence pays for 100% of Mr Browne's salary, even though he only works part time for this department. Please could you explain why the decision was taken for the Ministry of Defence to financially subsidise the role of Secretary of State for Scotland at a time when the Defence budget is stretched to breaking point.

Mr Browne recently claimed that the Government supported the troops and their families, and asked for the Nation to do the same. We argued in our previous letter that the part time role of the Secretary of State for Defence does not demonstrate support to the Service community; using defence funds to subsidise Scotland underlines our argument further.

We hope that you might consider the impact of this news on Army families at a time when they are making great sacrifices on behalf on their Nation.

Yours sincerely

Julie McCarthy
Chief Executive AFF