

Dear Mr

Thank you for your email of 10 March 2021 to Johnny Mercer MP, Minister for Defence People and Veterans, regarding the Veterans' ID Card. As you will appreciate, the Minister receives many letters and emails and is unable to answer them all personally. Therefore, your email has been passed to the Defence People Secretariat within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I have been asked to reply.

I would like to explain that the Veterans' recognition scheme has a two-phase rollout. Phase 1 is complete; with Service leavers receiving a recognition card as part of the discharge process. Phase two will enable existing veterans to more quickly, easily, and securely prove they served in the UK Armed Forces so they can access the services they need, through digital means. However, due to the need for future-proofing and safeguarding against fraudulent use, the process for phase two rollout will take longer than anticipated. This Government is committed to making the UK the best place to be a veteran in the world, and we need to ensure that this is not abused. The Ministry of Defence, including Veterans UK, is working with the Office for Veterans' Affairs within the Cabinet Office to develop ideas on how to build an online digital verification tool so that people can prove they served; this is a commitment in the Strategy for Our Veterans. We are beginning to move this work forward but are unable to announce a delivery date at this point.

Information on phase two of the Veterans' ID card will be released closer to the launch date at the existing gov.uk website.
"<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-veterans-id-cards-rolled-out-to-serviceleavers>"

Please also be advised that veterans can still access support services; if veterans are unclear about the support that is available to them, they may wish to contact the Veterans Welfare Service "<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/veterans-welfareservice>", or the Veterans Gateway "<https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/>" which gives veterans access to advice on a range of issues, 24-hours a day.

I hope this information is helpful. Thank you taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,
Defence People Secretariat

Unfortunately, it does appear that nothing has been done to issue the application process for the Veterans ID Card I'm afraid.

If I do hear anything more, I will of course relay it on, but I do fear that we wont be hearing anything for some time to come.

I can only suggest writing to your MP, maybe a member who is more "legally minded" than I.