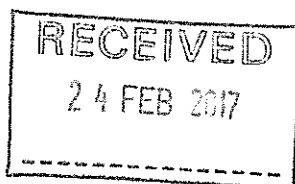


Patron Her Majesty The Queen

Peter Wilson
District Chairman South East Wales – The Royal British Legion
40 Quarry Rise
Undy
Caldicott
Monmouthshire NP26 3JU

15 February 2016

Cllr Barry Thomas
Powys County Council
County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
LD1 5LG



Dear Cllr Barry Thomas,

As you may know, The Royal British Legion is the largest welfare provider in the Armed Forces charity sector, delivering a wide range of support and advice to Serving personnel, veterans and their families in communities across Wales every year. As District Chairmen – South East Wales for The Royal British Legion, I am elected to represent our membership as we deliver the core aims of the Legion, via welfare support, remembrance and comradeship.

I would like to thank you for the backing your local authority provides for the work of the Legion, including the Poppy Appeal, every year and the ongoing positive relationship we enjoy with you in delivering the Armed Forces Covenant locally.

I am contacting you to request the council's formal support for the Legion's ongoing '**Count them in**' campaign which is calling for changes to the UK census in order to capture data at a local authority level regarding the size and needs of the Armed Forces Community. To date the campaign has received excellent support across Wales and the UK with official pledges from:

- One-third of all MPs
- 31 Welsh Assembly Members
- The Welsh Government
- 119 local authorities
- 18 Military Charities and academic institutions including Help for Heroes, CAIS Change Step, SSAFA, Combat Stress and walking with the Wounded.

We would be delighted if your council could also lend official support and join us.

If you were interested in passing a **council motion**, we have produced a template which is attached and which can also be obtained electronically by contacting the

LIVE ON

Legion Contact Centre 0808 802 8080
Registered Charity Number: 219279

Legion's Public Affairs and Campaigns Manager for Wales Peter Evans
pevans@britishlegion.org.uk

We believe that the full support of local government in Wales for this campaign would send a clear signal to the UK government and Office for National Statistics, that local partners are committed to delivering for the Armed Forces Community but that currently it is difficult to plan services due to the lack of accurate and reliable data relating to the Armed Forces Community in our local areas.

I look forward to hearing from you. If you have already passed a motion or are in the process of doing so, I would appreciate it if you could let me know at your earliest convenience.

We count on them – let's Count them in.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Wilson
District Chairman – South East Wales

— WE COUNT ON THEM —

**COUNT
THEM IN**



Making the next census count for our Armed Forces community

Draft Motion in Support of *Count Them In*

This council notes:

1. The obligations its owes to the Armed Forces community within **<INSERT COUNCIL NAME>** as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most.
2. The absence of definitive and comprehensive statistics on the size or demographics of the Armed Forces community within **<INSERT COUNCIL NAME>**. This includes serving Regular and Reserve personnel, veterans, and their families.
3. That the availability of such data would greatly assist the council, local partner agencies, the voluntary sector, and national Government in the planning and provision of services to address the unique needs of the Armed Forces community within **<INSERT COUNCIL NAME>**.

In light of the above, this council moves to support and promote The Royal British Legion's call to include a new topic in the 2021 census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces community. We further call upon the UK Parliament, which will approve the final census questionnaire through legislation in 2019, to ensure that the 2021 census includes questions concerning our Armed Forces community.

