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Minister for Economy and Transport

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government

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Assembly Members

4 November 2019

Dear Member,

Supporting the Armed Forces community in Wales

Many members will have taken part, or be planning to take part, in Remembrance activities during this Remembrance period, demonstrating your continued support for our Armed Forces and recognising the sacrifices made by so many.

In 2019 we have again witnessed significant and very poignant commemorations, including those surrounding D-Day 75 both in the UK and France. The First Minister also travelled to Holland recently to help mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation in 1944 of the city of 's-hertogenbosch by the 53 (Welsh) Division.

It is also important that we remember those who have served our country in more recent conflicts. We have many veterans living in Wales, along with serving personnel and their families. Our veterans and our service families possess significant experience and skills that can and often do benefit the communities they live in and the businesses and other enterprises they are employed by.

In December of last year the then Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services launched the BITC Cymru '**Inspire, Hire. Grow: An Employers Toolkit**. This guide was designed to help more businesses in Wales employ ex-Armed Forces personnel setting out ways in which businesses might tap into their valuable skills and experience.

https://llyw.cymru/cyflogi-cyn-filwyr-milwyr-wrth-gefn-y-lluoddd-arfog-canllaw-i-gyflogwyr?_ga=2.65177390.1207289062.1571823861-1165475327.1570627919

<https://gov.wales/employing-armed-forces-veterans-and-reservists-guide-employers>

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In September 2019, the Armed Forces Families Federations – comprising the Royal Naval Families federation, the Army Families Federation and the RAF Families federation – launched a new website called **Forces Families Jobs**. This website is a new employment and training platform specifically designed to support Service families into meaningful employment and provide opportunities for training and development. Businesses can now register their interest on the Forces Families jobs website and post their jobs directly to spouses and family members of our serving personnel.

<https://www.forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk/>

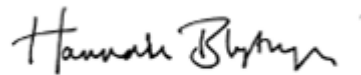
In addition, we have seen a BITC Cymru Armed Forces forum develop, with key employers signing up, sharing best practice and promoting the benefits to other businesses of employing those who have been in the services. We have also seen organisations such as the Officers' Association run forums and training for businesses in Wales using the BITC Cymru toolkit as a template for action.

Wales is rightly proud of its links with the Armed Forces and our veterans. We would ask, at this particularly important time of the year when we remember the sacrifices of so many, that you take the opportunity to help us raise awareness amongst the business community within your constituency of what is on offer, including through the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme/defence-employer-recognition-scheme>

Yours sincerely,



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