



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

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Leo Docherty MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Defence People and Veterans
Ministry of Defence, Floor 5 Zone B, Main Building
Whitehall, London SW1A2HB

By email: *DefenceSecretary-Group@mod.gov.uk*

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 21 November which my office only received yesterday. I note that the sudden and unexpected resignation of the Chair of the Eastern Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee (VAPC) has prompted you to consult me on appointing the two current Vice-Chairs into the role without competition.

I am content with the appointment of Rob Catton and Malcolm Johnston for a period of six months, until 24 July 2022, or sooner if a substantive Chair can be identified earlier. I commend MOD for launching a competition swiftly to replace Mr Catton and Mr Johnston in due course.

William Shawcross
Commissioner for Public Appointments