



**The Commissioner for  
Public Appointments**

**William Shawcross CVO**  
**Commissioner for Public Appointments**  
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**7 June 2022**

Leo Docherty MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State & Minister for Defence People And Veterans  
Floor 5, Zone D, Main Building  
Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter received on 6 June, consulting me on the direct appointment of Mr Laurie McLeman as interim chair of the North East Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee (VAPC), following the resignation of the current chair Lesley Smith.

I am content with this appointment under Section 3.3 of the Governance Code, albeit retrospective, for a period of 6 months from 31 May 2022 until 30 November 2022, or until a new permanent chair is appointed, whichever is sooner.

I will place a copy of this letter on my website as with all appointees under Section 3.3 of the Code to aid transparency. Please can your officials contact my office when Mr McLeman is announced as the interim chair.

Yours sincerely,

**William Shawcross**  
**Commissioner for Public Appointments**