



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

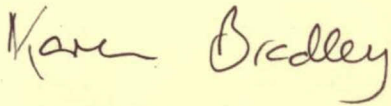
As Members of Parliament for Staffordshire, we write to express our deep concern at the withdrawal of 3rd Battalion, the Mercian Regiment (*The Staffords*) from the Order of Battle. The Battalion has a proud history which can be traced back to its first raising at the King's Head Inn, Lichfield, in 1705. It served in Martinique, South Africa, Flanders, Gallipoli, Anzio and Arnhem. More recently, photographs of 3 Mercian fighting in Basra, became defining images of the Iraq campaign.

We all recognise the difficult financial climate and the constraints that imposes on the Ministry of Defence. We understand that savings must be made. However, we also know that the decision to withdraw 3 Mercian will be distressing for all those currently serving, particularly those that might face redundancy, for their families and for those former *Staffords* who proudly recall their service.

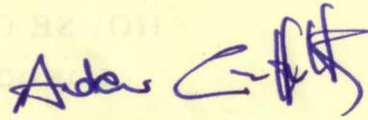
We know that it is the responsibility of the Mercian Regiment, as reorganised, to decide how best to reflect its history and antecedents. But as there is no longer any senior former *Stafford* serving on its staff, we hope that you will do all you can to encourage the Regiment to preserve and cherish the symbols, traditions and heritage of 3 Mercian within its ranks. 2 Mercian is known now as the *Worcester and Sherwood Foresters* as a result of previous amalgamations and we hope that a similar formula can be found to remember the *Staffords*.

We also seek an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss with him the implications of these proposals to service personnel, their families and veterans and to press him to retain the name of the 3rd Battalion. We hope that you will support us in seeking this meeting.

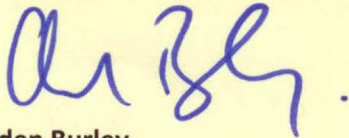
Yours sincerely,



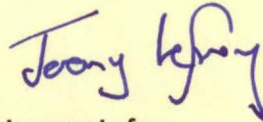
Karen Bradley
Member of Parliament for Staffordshire Moorlands



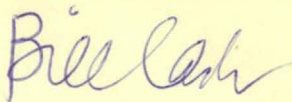
Andrew Griffiths
Member of Parliament for Burton



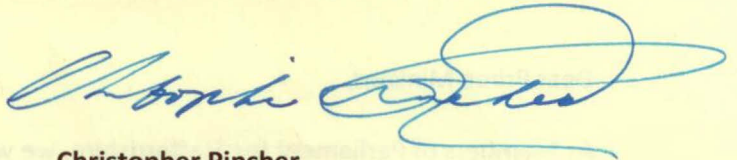
Aiden Burley
Member of Parliament for Cannock Chase



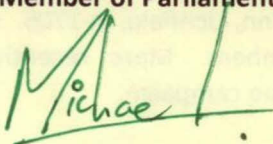
Jeremy Lefroy
Member of Parliament for Stafford



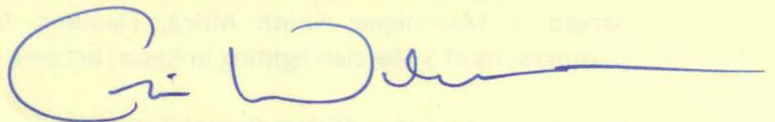
Bill Cash
Member of Parliament for Stone



Christopher Pincher
Member of Parliament for Tamworth



Michael Fabricant
Member of Parliament for Lichfield



Gavin Williamson
Member of Parliament for South Staffordshire