



Mr Danny Kinahan, NI Veterans Commissioner

Stormont House, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SH

E: commissioner@nivco.co.uk W: www.nivco.co.uk

29 January 2021

Dear fellow Veteran,

It is a huge honour to have been appointed as Northern Ireland's first Veterans Commissioner and to have the opportunity to represent and advocate on behalf of you all. With your help, I want to ensure that those who have given so much in the service of their country receive the support, help and assistance they rightly deserve.

Since my appointment, I have travelled throughout Northern Ireland listening to veterans and hearing first-hand their experiences during military service and also how they have found the transition back to civilian life.

I am acutely aware that many of you have left the armed services and are perfectly content with your lives as civilians and do not require help. However, there are many of you who require help and support across a range of issues, including **health**, **housing**, **retraining**, and **educational** needs for your families.

As Veterans Commissioner I need to engage with as many of you as I can in order that you can receive the help you require and know how to access that help in an efficient and timely manner. You can contact my office or keep up to date with my work in the following ways:

- Telephone - 028 90527734
- Email - commissioner@nivco.co.uk
- Website - www.nivco.co.uk and
- Twitter - [@niveteranscomm](https://twitter.com/niveteranscomm)

Going forward, it is absolutely critical that we firmly establish in Northern Ireland all that is promised in the **Armed Forces Covenant** and I warmly welcome the recent introduction of the Armed Forces Bill that will enhance support for service personnel, veterans and their families.

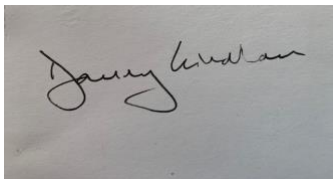
I would like to thank the various charities, regimental associations and community groups who are assisting in getting this letter out to as many of you as possible. My team works closely with all service providers and with the RFCA's Veterans' Support Office (VSO), the statutory body that provides oversight of the delivery of veterans' services across NI.

In these difficult times, particularly given the impact that COVID-19 has had on us all, can I ask that you contact your former military colleagues and make sure they are doing okay? If you have any concerns about any of them, or need help yourself, please make contact with my office or with the team in the VSO - contact details can be found at www.nivso.org.uk.

My role is part-time and is initially for three years. However, my team, which is now complete, is made up of two full-time members of staff, and we are here to help you as best we can.

I relish the task I have been given and will do everything I can to be a strong voice for every veteran in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to read 'Danny Kinahan'.

Danny Kinahan
NI Veterans Commissioner