

**THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH VISIT TO WESTMINSTER ON 30TH JANUARY 2024
TO PUT FORWARD A CASE FOR THE AWARD OF THE GSM DURING THE GAP YEARS**

Attendees:

Surgeon Commander The Rt Hon Andrew Murrison MP (South West Wilts) Under Secretary of State for Defence, People and Families

Siobhan Bailey MP (Stroud), Richard Graham MP (Gloucester).

Representatives for The Rt Hon Alex Chalk KC MP (Cheltenham) Justice Secretary

Laurence Robertson MP (Tewkesbury)

Gloucestershire Branch Aden Veterans Association - Rick Rutter Chair, Michael Compton Secretary, Denis Sparrow Branch Historian, Emlyn Phennah Newsletter Editor, Rev Brian Woollaston Branch Padre.

Following Denis Sparrow and Brian Serrell meeting with Alex Chalk KC MP (Cheltenham) last year, we contacted our constituency MPs to ask for their support. Richard Graham MP invited us to Portcullis House to meet with other Gloucestershire MPs. We had an hours discussion concerning our application for a GSM during the period from July 1960 to April 1964. We informed them that this was a new application and was only for those who served up country in the Radfan mountains and on the Yemen border. We estimated that this may be approximately 1000 personnel. We felt that they listened to our case and provided some useful advice on how to proceed.



Denis, Rick, Emlyn, Aide for Laurence Robinson, Richard Graham, Andrew Murrison, Siobhan Bailey

The MPs advised us that we ensure new evidence is provided and that we refer to the three criteria for the award of a GSM – Risk, Rigor and in Harms Way.

They recommended that we should put in an application for the GSM to be awarded during the ‘gap years’.

Siobhan Bailey provided us with the application paperwork and will meet us again to help with the process.

She also confirmed that she will write to all MPs to inform them of the pending application. This will enable any Aden Veterans to contact their MP for their support. The more MPs that we have supporting our application should improve our chances of the retrospective award of the medal.

If the application is successful individual veterans must apply for their GSM.

We need to obtain the names of those who served up country during this time period so that we have their service details for the next stage. An article will be published in the March issue of the Dhow to inform members of the meeting and what we need to do next.



Michael, Padre Brian, Emlyn, The Rt Hon Andrew Murrison MP, Denis, Rick, Siobhan Bailey MP