

Barry Fleming TEP

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Lieutenant Colonel GV de la F Woyka RHG/D
Principle Staff Officer to Defence Services Secretary
Level 6, Zone C
Main Building, Whitehall
London, SW1A 2HB

8th August 2011

Dear Colonel Woyka,

Medals Review – the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM)

I am writing on behalf of the Committee and Membership of the Fight4thePJM Campaign and further to my letters of the 17th and 28th June enclosing submissions for presentation to the Medals Review. I wondered whether that previous correspondence had arrived safely because I have not heard anything. In case an acknowledgement has been sent elsewhere, I would confirm that all correspondence to the Committee and Membership of the Fight4thePJM Campaign should be sent to me at the above address in the first instance.

If the Submission and previous correspondence have been safely received and submitted, please do not trouble to reply to this letter – I am sure you have enough correspondence to deal with in connection with the Medals Review.

While writing, I am told the 30th June was not a deadline for submissions and so I would be grateful if you could add this letter to our previous submissions because, in the context that the Board is entitled to be advised of all relevant information, we are concerned that that may not happen.

We wonder if those in the Departments who respond to the Board and who advise the HD Committee will supply information that the Board should have available to them even when it has not been sought and/or does not support their position - as required by the Civil Service Code specifically, and the Military Covenant generally.

For example, have Departments advised the Board that:

- The so-called Double Medal Rule that was invoked to stop British private citizens wearing the PJM *is not a longstanding* part of the Foreign Decorations Regulations as Departments maintained in the January 2006 Ministerial Statement, but was introduced into the Foreign Decorations Regulations for the first time just months before the PJM was publicly announced.
- The 1969 Regulations, which *did not contain any reference to a Double Medal Rule*, were in force, as far as we can tell, until 2003. The PJM was announced in 2004, a request from Malaysia was made in February 2005, and new Regulations were subsequently and hurriedly created between October and November 2005. Those new regulations were then *applied retrospectively* to the PJM in December 2005.
- Two key Departmental Ministers in office at the time of the PJM decision, the then Rt Hon Don Touhig (MoD Veterans Minister) and Ian Pearson (FCO Minister who promulgated the PJM Statement) subsequently, and having been informed of what they had not been told by Departments, *criticised the flawed PJM recommendation and are working hard in support of our case.*

And so it goes on. For more than five years all we have sought is a fair hearing. All sides of the case need to be heard, of course, but any review should include what the Departments are not saying and an independent arbiter should have the opportunity be informed of, and to ask if he/she thinks it appropriate, those questions that Departments probably prefer should never be asked.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed Barry Fleming)

Barry Fleming

On Behalf of the Committee and Members
Of the Fight4thePJM