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Reference: 20190207-
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07 February 2019

Dear Henrietta,

Thank you so much for the excellent Freedom to Speak Up talk you gave recently at Defence Medical Services (Whittington) as part of my series of Leadership Lectures. Your focus on the importance of effective leadership in order to create the right culture absolutely hit the mark. While the military prides itself in developing and supporting effective leaders, important contributions such as yours help us to evolve our leadership training.

We strive for a culture of openness and transparency and are determined to empower our people at all levels. By embracing the Freedom to Speak Up initiative I feel that we are taking a very important step towards building the right environment to maximise the quality of patient care.

I am clear that the Freedom to Speak Up initiative will require us to conduct proper and independent investigations where needed and to commit to supporting our Guardians and Champions. Part of that support was your kind offer to link our staff to the wider Freedom to Speak Up Guardian network which will, I am sure, allow both NHS and MOD staffs to share their experiences more effectively.

The very fact that there were so many questions and so much interest in what you had to say demonstrated the interest in and appetite for the Freedom to Speak Up initiative. Indeed, I very much look forward to seeing the initiative develop across the Defence Medical Services both here in the UK and overseas.

Yours aye!
Alastair Reid
