



**ARMY**

**General Sir Peter Wall KCB CBE ADC Gen**  
**Chief of the General Staff**  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone M,  
Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

Telephone	020 7218 7114	Military	(9621) 87114
Switchboard	020 7218 9000	Switchboard	(9621) 89000
Fax	020 7218 2474	Fax	(9621) 82474



CGS/DO

Mr Barry Fennell  
5 Weavers Court Business Park  
Unfield Road  
Belfast  
BT12 5GH

11 October 2011

*Dear Mr Fennell,*

Thank you for your letter of 19 September asking for my support for the Family And Community Engagement (FACE) Project. I am encouraged by your work with the Northern Ireland Garrison. It is important for our long term integration into the communities in which we sit, particularly so as we bring the majority of the Army back to the United Kingdom. I gather that the level of engagement has varied between locations, not least because of the pressures on the military garrison, but this is indicative of the challenge that you face, and an example of the barriers that we need to break down. The success that you have reaped in Ballykinler, as one of our more isolated communities in the Garrison, is an example of what can be achieved and is very encouraging.

I am delighted Co-operation Ireland has taken the initiative to seek further funding from the Special European Union Projects Board to build upon the foundations created by the pilot projects. I continue to welcome focussed effort on those parts of the Northern Ireland Garrison that feel geographically or culturally isolated. I do think that you will find breaking down barriers with the Reserves tricky in the current climate, for they have been steadfast in their desire for anonymity and tend to integrate on their own terms, so my view is that you would be better concentrating on the Regular Garrison for now, but that need not preclude from your work.

Brigadier Ed Smyth-Osbourne of 38 (Irish) Brigade and the Army Welfare Service in Northern Ireland should remain your points of contact for your engagement with the Army, but I wish you every success with the European bid, the work of Cooperation Ireland and FACE.

*Yours sincerely,*

*P. Wall*