# Veterans' Minister Johnny Mercer Refuses to Disclose Officer Names in Afghanistan Inquiry



Veterans’ Minister Johnny Mercer has accused the Afghanistan Inquiry of ignoring critical evidence and fixating on pressuring him to reveal the names of officers who informed him of alleged murders and cover-ups by special forces. This inquiry, led by Sir Charles Haddon-Cave, is investigating claims that a UK special forces unit executed Afghan males of "fighting age" who posed no threat between 2010 and 2013.

Despite being under order to disclose these names, which Sir Charles assured would be treated confidentially, Mercer has steadfastly refused, citing his obligation to protect his sources. His defiance has placed him at risk of imprisonment, with the judge deeming his non-compliance "unacceptable" and issuing a section 21 notice demanding the names. The decision on whether Mercer will face prison has been deferred until after the General Election.

Mercer, who represents Plymouth Moor View, expressed profound personal strain from the ordeal, noting the impact on his family and highlighting the importance of maintaining trust and confidentiality with whistleblowers. His wife, Felicity Mercer, also supports his decision, emphasizing his integrity and commitment to protecting those who came forward.