WHAT IS A DNRC?
The Defence & National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC) is an initiative by the Duke of Westminster to provide 21st century clinical rehabilitation for the armed forces and the nation.

The combination of the 2 elements (Defence – the ‘D’ in DNRC and the nation, the ‘N’) on the same site has the potential to be game-changing.

The opportunities created by co-locating these 2 facilities as one single and comprehensive facility for clinical rehabilitation will enable the DNRC to achieve far more than the sum of its parts. By combining excellence in clinical medicine with the right physical environment and the right location, we intend to create a facility which will deliver remarkable outcomes for the people who attend it.

Defence: the ‘D’ element would be a 21st century military rehabilitation establishment for servicemen and women and will be a 21st century military rehabilitation establishment for those who have been injured in conflict.

It would provide traumatic brain rehabilitation, neurologic injuries for those undertaking rehabilitation and a focus to life capability which would, in conjunction with other Defence assets, ensure that the transition for people leaving Headley Court, principally returning to armed forces units that they cannot be replaced. With current involvement in Afghanistan may be drawing to a close, whilst current involvement in Afghanistan may be drawing to a close, it is essential that they are treated brilliantly and, if possible, returned to service quickly – as they cannot be replaced.

National: the ‘N’ element would provide vocational clinical rehabilitation facilities for the civilian population in a way that does not exist at present. Rehabilitation of those disabled and unable to work in civilian life is a major policy area within Government, and a combination of Defence and civilian medicine in one location could provide a combination unique in the world.

The area around Stanford Hall would provide the geographical focus of the Defence establishment. The National development would be located on the western side of the site, focusing on the area that is outside the registered parkland designation. The 2 developments are physically separate but in some cases leaving the Service, are well attended to.

The need for a DNRC

The armed forces of the Crown have a duty to use significant force in support of the nation’s interests.

In training and on operations, the risks are high and physical hardship, and often injury, are willingly accepted parts of their lives. Whilst current involvement in Afghanistan may be drawing to a close, the Government’s foreign and security policy means that the British Armed Services are likely to continue to engage in armed conflict overseas. When Servicemen and women are injured by whatever means, it is essential that they are treated brilliantly and, if possible, returned to service quickly – as they cannot be replaced.

There is also a recognized and urgent need for improvement in the nation’s approach to getting people back to work.

The cost to the taxpayer of lost working days was estimated in 2006 to be over £15bn. The focus on work-related interventions, looking at what people can do, rather than what they cannot, has the potential to bring huge benefits to the nation through reducing the social and economic costs of ill-health in working age adults.

Rehabilitation medicine covers a large number of disabling conditions.

The majority of conditions are acquired, such as traumatic brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, limb loss and musculo-skeletal injury. Also congenital conditions or those arising in childhood, such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophies and limb deficiency, will continue into adulthood and require ongoing support, advice and expertise.

The specialist services that deal with these are neurological and spinal cord injury rehabilitation, limb loss or deficiency rehabilitation and prosthetics, and musculoskeletal rehabilitation.

The DNRC offers a real and exciting opportunity for Defence, the NHS and sporting fraternities to improve patient outcomes and to improve quality of life for people who have been injured.