Portsmouth, 6 September 1803

My Lord,

I am very happy to find by your Lordship’s very obliging letter of the 3rd Inst. that the Portsea Volunters are likely soon to be put out of the very awkward state of suspense which have for some time past annoyed them exceedingly. I have spoke to Mr. Lindergreen who will forward the necessary return of the People who have Volunteers with him.

I am very glad that your Lordship is not mistaken with respect to Mr Arnaud, whose appointment to be a Field Officer would give universal disgust and certainly not benefit the Service. The Victualling Office People, I daresay your Lordship upon looking again and your Returns will find to be upwards of three hundred on the Portsmouth and Gosport side of the Water. I hope to have an early account of your Lordship’s perfect recovery.

I am My Lord

With great respect, etc etc

John Whitelocke

Mr Lindergreen’s people amount to 240 and his Officers are very respectable. I hope therefore that he will not experience any disappointment, being truly loyal and deserving.