To be approved

Hackwood Park

27 February 1804

Sir

I had long ago the honor to represent to you my ideas of the desireableness of completing the good discipline and efficacy of the Volunteers by placing them under the direction and superintendence of Field Officers of the Line in cases, where the Corps should express a wish for such an arrangement and other circumstances should conspire to make it approvable. I am inclined to think from all accounts that such a plan would be very advisable at Portsmouth and Gosport and as the number of Volunteer Companies there are very considerable I should beg leave that three Officers may be appointed with the rank of major and upon permanent pay [these three words highlighted] to take charge respectively of the Volunteer Independent Companies of Infantry at Portsmouth, Portsea and Gosport. Accidental circumstances, which I had the honor [...] my private letter to explain to you and upon which I have to acknowledge very sincerly your obliging and considerable interference, had prevented me from offering an earlier offical application to you. I am now therefore to request that Major Carter may be appointment to the Portsea Volunteers. I am not yet prepared to propose the names of Officers for those of Portsmouth and Gosport, but I shall have the honor to address you again, so soon as I can feel myself authorised to recommend officers qualified for this important duty.

It appears to be also extremely necessary, that three adjutants should be appointed upon pay, one to each of the battalions. Mr Missing having, as I am informed, desired to resign, I beg leave to recomment Mr Martin White, who has been appointed assistant adjutant and has acted, I understand, for a considerable time past as sole adjutant, as First of the Three. He is represented to me as a very useful and meritous officer.

Sergeant Major Wilson of the 1st Garrison Battalion, and Sergeant P. Clayton of the Royal Gloucester Militia have also acted as adjutants from and before the commencement of this year and I therefore upon a full representation of their peculiar fitness for the situation desire to recommend them to be appointed also adjutants with Mr Martin White.

I have the honor to be

Sir your most obedient humble servant

Bolton