



**Corporate
Covenant**

The Armed Forces Corporate Covenant

Blind Veterans UK

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of Blind Veterans UK

Signed: 

Name: Barry Porter

Position Held: Interim Chief Executive

Date: July 2014



**Ministry
of Defence**

The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families.

They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles Of The Armed Forces Corporate Covenant

1.1 We, Blind Veterans UK, will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 Blind Veterans UK recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- *promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation;*

Blind Veterans UK believes that no one who has served our country should have to battle blindness alone. We already support more than 3600 ex service personnel who are living with sight loss and, through our No One Alone campaign, we are committed to reaching all Armed Forces and National Service veterans and their families who could be entitled to our free, lifelong support.

- *seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old;*

Our services aim to help veterans adjust to sight loss and to be able to live more independently. We seek to support the employment of veterans young and old and work in partnership with many other organisations including statutory bodies, third sector organisations and in particular those working in the ex-Service sector committed to the welfare of veterans to identify the following:-

- their transferrable skills
- potential employment opportunities
- supporting individuals already in work who are seeking development opportunities

We are also proud to employ ex-Service men and women in different roles throughout the charity and have many volunteers who are also beneficiaries of the charity who we support with appropriate training.

- *aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day;*

Blind Veterans UK actively participates in Armed Forces Day every year. We are keen to celebrate and honour the work of the Armed Forces community by taking part in the principal events. We also use our involvement with Armed Forces Day as an opportunity to reach more vision impaired veterans and their families who we can support with our specialist services.

- *offering a discount to members of the Armed Forces Community;*

Once an application for support has been approved, most services are provided free of charge to veterans. We can also provide discounts on specialist equipment and technology for veterans with sight loss through our relationship with third party suppliers.

- *any additional commitments Blind Veterans UK could make (based on local circumstances).*

Our regional welfare and grants team are based across the UK. They work together with our veterans to help them stay independent and enjoy their quality of life by giving support and advice on:

- care and health
- finance, benefits and grants
- property and housing
- access to training and equipment

We also have three centres in England and Wales; in Brighton, Sheffield and Llandudno. Each centre is a place for rehabilitation, training and recreation for vision impaired veterans and their families. We offer:-

- a free one week residential placement for rehabilitation and training.
- on-going training is also free of charge to our beneficiaries
- discounted holidays are offered throughout the year
- free equipment on-loan to our beneficiaries for as long as they need it
- free transport to enable access to our facilities.

We have also negotiated discounts for veterans locally – for example at local garden centres, activity parks, and the sea-life centre.

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature, our website and our social media outlets, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community, our veterans and their families on how we are doing.