



NHS Confederation

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:

NHS Confederation

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Danny Mortimer".

Name: Danny Mortimer

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 19th July 2018

Signed on behalf of:

Ministry of Defence

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M Bricknell".

Name: Lieutenant General M Bricknell

Position: Surgeon General

Date: 19th July 2018

NHS CONFEDERATION



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 Covenant

1.1 We NHS Confederation 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 NHS Confederation 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 on our website, through social media and NHS Jobs;*
- *seeking to support the employment of veterans and service leavers, using Career Transition Partnership jobsite to promote roles available;*
- *striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners by promoting that we are armed-forces friendly and using military channels to post available jobs;*
- *advocate recruiting from the Armed Forces community by leading the national Step into Health programme;*
- *offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment;*
- *seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve Forces, by accommodating their training and deployment as part of our special leave policy;*
- *actively participate in Armed Forces Day and Reserves Day activity encouraging uniform to work from current or ex-military personnel, social media messaging and encouraging NHS engagement;*
- *seek to support military charities during fundraising opportunities.*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.