



Heart of Midlothian Football Club

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:

Heart of Midlothian Football Club

Ministry of Defence

Signed:

Name:

Anne Budge

Colonel Charlie Wallace

Position:

Chief Executive Officer

**Deputy Commander 51
Infantry Brigade and Army
Headquarters Scotland**

Date:

29th July 2018

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**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 Covenant

1.1 We Heart of Midlothian Football Club 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 Heart of Midlothian Football Club 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;*
- *seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old and working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), in order to establish a tailored employment pathway for Service Leavers;*
- *striving to support the employment of reservists, armed forces veterans (included the wounded, injured and sick), cadet instructors and Service spouses and partners;*
- *endeavouring to 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 granting an additional 10 days paid leave to undergo their training;*
- *offering support to our local cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible;*
- *offering to refund the balance of any season ticket purchased in the event of the holder being mobilised for duty / operations for the remainder of the season;*

- *offering complimentary Coach Education course places for serving personnel / Reservists involved in coaching their community club and / or military youth football clubs;*
- *dedicating a home fixture to Armed Forces Day;*
- *dedicating the home fixture closest to Remembrance Sunday as our Remembrance fixture;*
- *planning and executing the Haymarket Memorial Remembrance Sunday Service on behalf of the community to enable our, and other football clubs and supporters to pay their respects to the men and women who served their country.*

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.