



YSS

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:

YSS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. P. [unclear]". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Signed: _____

Position: Chief Executive _____

Date: 20/02/18 _____

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 YSS 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 YSS 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; by displaying the Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme, Bronze award YSS are proud to hold, on our website and all appropriate paperwork*
- *seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old; as an employer and through our service delivery by ensuring our HR and employment policies and procedures reflect our commitment*
- *striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners by advertising roles through our local Covenant partnership and ensuring we have the means of identification at recruitment stage*
- *endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment; this may include opportunities to work from home, flexible hours or take unpaid leave. We already offer special consideration to employees which may include special paid leave for bereavement, injury or other trauma*
- *seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, by accommodating their training and deployment where possible; This may be a combination of flexible working, paid and unpaid leave according to circumstances*
- *aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day by supporting events in our local communities; this would also include using social media to promote and highlight Armed Forces Day. YSS already has an active social media presence which we would utilise.*

- *our continued active involvement in local Covenant partnership meetings across Shropshire, Telford, Worcestershire and Herefordshire*
- *continued delivery of Covenant funded services*
- *As a charity we seek social justice for children, young people, their families and adults who may face disadvantage. We believe everyone should have the opportunity to lead positive and constructive lives and to achieve their potential.*

We are proud to have delivered two Armed Forces Covenant services across Shropshire, Telford, Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Warwickshire, offering support to veterans in the criminal justice system

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.