



Virtus Rifle 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:

Virtus Rifle Club

Signed:

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Lee Cocozza JP".

Name: Lee Cocozza JP

Position: Chairman

Date: 11th May 2020



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, Virtus Rifle 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 Virtus Rifle 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:

- *We will promote the fact that we are an Armed Forces friendly organisation by use of the AFC logo on our website, official Club Email addresses and our website.*
- *The Committee will send correspondence to each member explaining the pledges we have made and requiring them to uphold them.*
- *The Club will incorporate these pledges into our Bye Laws, forming part of our Constitution.*
- *A large proportion of the Club's current membership are Veterans or Reservists and we will continue to seek out those with whom we share experience and value their continued Membership.*
- *We will endeavour to offer a degree of flexibility to complete mandatory training and attend Club events where external pressures make this difficult.*
- *We will support Reservists during deployment by arranging alternative Training events, where this is possible, including use of alternative media. We will offer to store firearms for free, within the limits of the Club's Firearms certificate capacity and communicate regularly by appropriate means so that our members are not disadvantaged by their absence.*

- *The Committee will communicate the importance of Armed Forces Day to each member and organise an event for members to come together for this and acts of Remembrance where this is desired.*
- *Virtus Rifle Club provides it's members with friendship and support and is keenly aware of the importance of this to our Veterans and Reservists.*
- *The Club is affiliated to the National Governing body and offers access to all Nationally recognised Training, as well as specialized training events in house from experienced Instructors for members.*
- *Virtus Rifle Club is also Home Office Approved and our Constitution supports a Policy of openness and diversity. Where practicable, we will always ensure that Members are able to participate as fully as possible in events, regardless of injury or disability.*
- *We encourage those new Members to continue shooting, further their skills and we introduce them to civilian disciplines. Assistance will also be on hand at all stages, to complete relevant paperwork and advise with Security arrangements in accordance with the Firearms Act and any local requirements.*

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 those we deal with on how we are doing. This will be the responsibility of our Armed Forces Champion, a Club member currently holding an officer position on the Committee, who will have the task of ensuring the Club upholds these pledges.