



Corporate Covenant

The Armed Forces Corporate Covenant

The Officers' Association (Charity no.201321)

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 the Officers' Association

Lee Holloway

Position Held: Chief Executive Officer

Date: 18 June 2014

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OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION



Life beyond the Services



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, the Officers' Association, will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are that:

- *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 The Officers' Association recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business and to the Community. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- *promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation;*
 - *Since its formation in 1921, the Officers' Association has existed as a charity to provide lifetime support for Officers of all three Armed Services, serving and retired;*
 - *We do this through Benevolence help for those in need or distress, in which we offer free advice and, if individuals are eligible, charitable financial assistance to members of the Armed Forces Community in need;*
 - *Employment advice, assisting officers and former officers in their transition from military to civilian employment through advice, training, support from an existing network of employers and subject matter experts, and armed forces-friendly employers.*
- *the Officers' Association delivers Employment Services as part of the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) and has links to the Recovery Careers Service and Early Service Leavers initiatives..*
- *addressing general wellbeing issues for Service men and women and their Families on an individual case basis.*
- *striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners: we will be increasing our efforts to help those who form Service Families and who support the Front Line.*
- *seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible;*
- *offering support to our local cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible;*
- *aiming to participate actively in Armed Forces Day; and*
- *recruiting former Service men and women: more than 40% of our staff have served in the Armed Service, most of them as officers.*

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.

- *Our website (www.officersassociation.org.uk) gives information about the help and advice that we give.*
- *Our 250 volunteers Honorary Representatives (details on our website) are based across the country and are able to visit those in need or distress.*
- *We provide both on-line and person-to-person advice.*
- *And we organise symposia so that we can spread the advice to those Service officers – both men and women who are in the transition or resettlement process.*
- *As members of COBSEO and with links to many other Service charities and employment organisations (such as the Career Transition Partnership and the SORTED! Consortium) the Staff of the Officers' Association are available at numerous events and able to advise, or at act as 'signposts' to others who can provide assistance.*