



States of
Guernsey



We, the undersigned, commit to honour this Armed Forces
Covenant and support the Armed Forces
Community in Guernsey. We recognise the value Serving Personnel,
both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military
families contribute to our island.

Signed: _____

Name: **Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder KBE, CB**

Position: **Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief**

Signed: _____

Name: **Sir Richard Collas**

Position: **Bailiff (First Citizen)**

Signed: _____

Name: **Deputy Gavin St Pier**

Position: **President, Policy & Resources Committee of
the States of Guernsey**

Date: **12th December 2017**

The Guernsey Armed Forces Covenant

An enduring Covenant between
the States of Guernsey and the people of Guernsey

- and -

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces
and their Families

The first duty of any government is the defence of the realm. In the case of Guernsey, it is Her Majesty's Armed Forces ('the Armed Forces') who fulfil that responsibility on our behalf. Their service is one to which past generations of Guernsey men and women have contributed hugely, and today's generation continue to do so in the best traditions of their predecessors. In doing so, they sacrifice some civilian freedoms, face danger and sometimes suffer serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of the Armed Forces. In return, the whole island has a moral obligation to the members of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who currently serve in the Armed Forces or have done so in the past (whether Regular or Reserve) 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 been affected most, such as the injured and the bereaved. This obligation involves the whole community: it includes the States of Guernsey, 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 community and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in the upholding of this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles of the Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 This Guernsey Armed Forces Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Guernsey, and the States and the people of Guernsey.

1.2 The island of Guernsey is a dependency of the British Crown and is not part of the United Kingdom; it is self-governing with its own independent legal, administrative and fiscal systems. The island has historically close ties with Britain and Guernsey people have served with distinction in the Armed Forces over the centuries, including both World Wars in which the sacrifice made by Guernsey Service Personnel was particularly high. Today there continues to be a significant number of Guernsey people serving in the Armed Forces with the links between the island and the Armed Forces in the South of England being particularly strong. Overall responsibility for defence of the realm, including the Bailiwick of Guernsey, lies with the Government of the United Kingdom on behalf of the Crown. The UK's Armed Forces Covenant sets out the relationship at national level between the Armed Forces and the UK Government. The States and the people of Guernsey are also committed to encouraging support for those who serve in the Armed Forces, their families and dependents, Reservists and Veterans, who reside in or who are from the island, and are pleased to demonstrate that commitment through this Guernsey Armed Forces Covenant.

Section 2: Principles of the Armed Forces Covenant

2.1 The Guernsey Armed Forces Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces community. It is intended to mirror at a local level the moral obligation already entered into at a national level between the Government, people and Armed Forces of the United Kingdom.

2.2 The purpose of this Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces community working and/or residing in Guernsey and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces community, particularly those who have been affected the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel, their families and widow(er)s in Guernsey.

2.3 For the States of Guernsey, this Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work in this area.

2.4 For the Armed Forces community, this Covenant promotes the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.

Section 3: Objectives and General Intentions

- 3.1 This Guernsey Armed Forces Covenant defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the States and the people of Guernsey and the island's Armed Forces community.
- 3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within the island community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the States and from the island's charitable and voluntary sectors.
- 3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and members of the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their island community and promote activity which integrates the service community into island life.

Section 4: Measures

- 4.1 The States of Guernsey and the people of Guernsey are committed to recognising the contribution of the Armed Forces and to ensuring that those who currently serve in the Armed Forces or have done so in the past (whether Regular or Reserve) and their families should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens. We will do this by:
 - looking after the welfare needs of our Armed Forces personnel and their families
 - recognising and remembering the sacrifices faced by the Armed Services community in annual services of commemoration
 - welcoming and properly supporting Armed Forces visitors to the island, honouring those in particular with whom Guernsey has special links
 - working with Armed Service associations to nurture understanding and awareness among the public of issues facing those within the Armed Forces community both past and present
 - continuing to develop and strengthen links with those UK Government departments most closely associated with Armed Forces personnel and their welfare, in particular the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Health, in order to support those negatively affected by active service
 - acknowledging the important role of the Cadet Forces of all military services and their valuable contribution to the Youth and Community Services of Guernsey
 - acknowledging the work carried out by specific Armed Forces Charities and relevant Associations
 - developing ways of improving access to information for serving and ex-Service personnel and their families in respect of support and services in Guernsey

The States of Guernsey will periodically review the measures that they are taking to implement the principles of this Armed Forces Covenant and consider if further actions would be helpful.