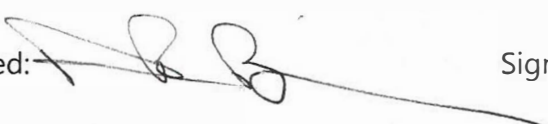




## Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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:  
**Kettering General Hospital  
NHS Foundation Trust**

Signed: 

Position: Chairman

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

Signed on behalf of:  
**Ministry of Defence**

Signed: 

Name: Lt Col Keith Spiers TD

Position: Head of UK Engagement East  
7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & HQ East

## 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 **Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust** will endeavour 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 We recognise the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our community. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- **Promoting the Armed Forces:** *advocating and demonstrating support for the Armed Forces community and promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation, to our staff, patients, suppliers, contractors and wider public;*
- **NHS Armed Forces Network:** *engaging with the NHS Employers' Armed Forces Network to develop and share good practice;*
- **NHS Step into Health:** *engaging with the NHS Step into Health programme, offering an access route into employment and career development opportunities;*
- **Healthcare Services:** *striving for equity of access to healthcare services for Service personnel and their dependents; ensuring that veterans receive priority treatment (subject to the clinical needs of others) in respect of hospital treatment relating to a condition resulting from their service in the Armed Forces.*
- **Support for Employees:**
  - **Veterans:** *supporting the employment of veterans and working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), in order to establish a tailored employment pathway for Service leavers;*
  - **Service Spouses & Partners:** *supporting the employment of Service spouses and partners; including flexibility in granting leave before, during and after a partner's deployment;*
  - **Reserves:** *supporting our employees who are members of the Reserve Forces, including granting special paid leave for training and supporting deployment;*
- **National Events:** *supporting Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day and Remembrance activities;*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature, on staff notices, and on our website, setting out how we will seek to support them and inviting feedback from the Service community, our staff and patients on how we are doing.