



## SMALL WOODS

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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:

**Small Woods**

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Position: Chief Executive Officer

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Date: 21st January 2021

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# 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 **Small Woods** 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 **Small Woods** recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our Charity. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- **Promoting the Armed Forces:** promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation to our staff, suppliers and wider public. We will continue to develop bespoke courses/events that are especially suitable to veterans (including those suffering from PTSD) due to nature of our surroundings and working methods, where funding allows.
- **Veterans:** we will undertake to recognise military skills and qualifications in our recruitment and selection process and working with the Career Transition Partnership wherever possible and appropriate.
- **Service Spouses & Partners:** supporting and advocating support for the employment of Service spouses and partners; providing flexibility in granting leave before, during and after a partner's deployment.
- **Reserves:** supporting our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve Forces; including accommodating their training and deployment wherever possible.
- **Cadet Organisations:** offering support to local Cadet Units either in our local community or in local schools wherever appropriate.
- **National Events:** supporting Armed Forces Day, Remembrance activities and other similar events wherever possible.

2.2 We will publicise these commitments, setting out how we will seek to honour them.