



Royal Hospital Chelsea

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:
Royal Hospital Chelsea

Signed on behalf of:
Ministry of Defence

Signed:

Signed:

Position: Governor Royal Hospital Chelsea

Position: Minister for Defence People and Veterans

Date: 4th Feb 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 'Royal Hospital Chelsea' 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 The Royal Hospital Chelsea 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:

- *promoting the fact that we are an armed forces-friendly organisation and openly highlight this within our recruitment advertisements and website;*
- *providing a home for Army Veterans at the Royal Hospital Chelsea;*
- *seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old through our registration with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) and Regular Forces Employment Association, in order to establish a tailored employment pathway for Service Leavers;*
- *striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners by advertising employment through Forces Families Jobs;*
- *endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment;*
- *seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces and cadet units by providing 10 days paid leave and by accommodating their training and deployment where possible;*
- *offering support to our local cadet units, either in our local community, in local schools, or on site if possible;*
- *supporting staff and Chelsea Pensioners to actively participate in Armed Forces Day events;*

- *offering a discount to members of the Armed Forces Community for the hiring of the grounds and facilities at the Royal Hospital Chelsea;*
- *allowing the Ministry of Defence to use the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea for strategic partnering events; upon prior approval.*
- *supporting high profile events through the attendance of the Chelsea Pensioners at events such as the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall;*
- *developing strong operational links to the Defence Medical Services, including providing learning opportunities, to support students training and expand their experience;*
- *allowing the Royal Hospital facilities to be used for specific Armed Forces Covenant signing events; upon prior approval.*
- *providing discounted rates for the use of Royal Hospital facilities to organisations who have partnered with Defence through the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme;*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and 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.