



British Chambers of Commerce

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:

British Chambers of Commerce

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Marshall".

Position: Director General, BCC

Date: 29th March 2021



The Ministry of Defence

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Groves".

Position: Assistant Chief of Defence Staff – Reserve Forces & Cadets, Ministry of Defence

Date: 29th March 2021



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 **British Chambers of Commerce** 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 We recognise the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business and to our country. 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, customers, suppliers, contractors and wider public.
 - Through events, social media and wider press and promotion channels.
 - Sharing via our larger chamber network and encouraging others through the Chamber Military Network.
 - Publishing our covenant pledge on our website and that of the Chamber Military Network
- **Veterans:** supporting the employment of veterans, recognising military skills and qualifications in our recruitment and selection process; working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) to support the employment of Service leavers;
- **Service Spouses & Partners:** supporting the employment of Service spouses and partners; partnering with the [Forces Families Jobs](#); and providing flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment.
 - We fully support spouses & partners into Business by offering our 'Supporting the Un-sung hero- business Start-up programme across the Chamber Network.
 - We will offer flexibility in granting leave for spouses and partners before, during and after deployment.
 - We welcome applications for positions from spouses and partners.
- **Reserves:** supporting our employees who are members of the Reserve Forces; granting additional paid/unpaid leave for annual Reserve Forces training; supporting any mobilisations and deployment; actively encouraging members of staff to become Reservists;
 - Creation of a Reserve Forces policy which includes 10 days additional paid leave for reservists to support training camps and deployment related activities and provides support for mobilised deployment of employed reservists.
- **Cadet Organisations:** supporting our employees who are volunteer leaders in military cadet organisations, providing flexibility in granting leave to attend annual training camps and courses; actively encouraging members of staff to become volunteer leaders in cadet organisations; supporting local military cadet units; recognising the benefits of employing cadets/ex-cadets within the workforce.
- **National Events:** supporting Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities;

- **Armed Forces Charities:** supporting Armed Forces charities with fundraising and supporting staff who volunteer to assist;
- **Commercial Support:** we will encourage our chamber network to offer discounts where appropriate.

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.