



Heyford & Bicester Veterans Group

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:

Heyford & Bicester Veterans Group

Signed: _____

Name: IAN RIDLEY

Position: Group Administrator

Date: 16-8-17



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 **Heyford & Bicester Veterans Group** 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 **Heyford & Bicester Veterans Group** 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, through the media and through our social media pages.*
- *seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old and working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), in order to establish a tailored employment pathway for Service Leavers, promoting the site through our social media page.*
- *striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners, promoting this through our social media page.*
- *endeavouring to offer a degree of support to serving soldiers and veterans in getting help and support during difficult times, in the form of monthly Veterans support meeting with veterans agencies and charities.*
- *promoting and seeking to support our employers who choose to employ members of the Reserve forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible.*
- *offering support to our local Service personnel and veterans in the transition to civilian life.*
- *aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day.*

- *promoting through the media and social media the plight of Service personnel and veterans in the difficulties of transitioning into civilian lifestyle.*
- *Offer help and support through veterans groups and charities to those Service personnel and veterans in need.*
- *Offering all veterans the ability to talk to a caseworker about help support or assistance in:*
 - Form completion – PiP DLA etc*
 - Applications – Blue Badge*
 - Grants – RBL SSAFA welfare support*
 - Medical/Hearings SeAp Advocacy Service*
 - Someone to talk to or listen in private and in confidence*
 - To mention a few.*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our social media pages, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.