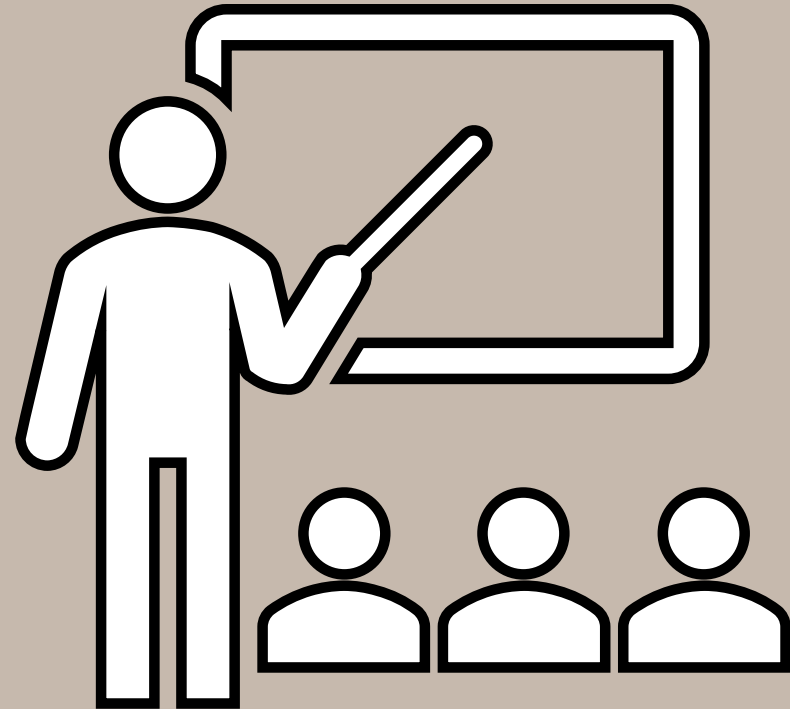


The Armed Forces Covenant

Ministry of Defence,

Patrick O'Brien Covenant Team





 THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST

- (a) the unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces;
- (b) the principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces; and
- (c) the principle that special provision for service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the armed forces.

What is the Covenant legal Duty?



A **legal obligation** on certain public bodies
to **have due regard**
to the **principles** of the Armed Forces Covenant
when carrying out certain functions in the areas of
Healthcare, Housing and Education.

What does 'due regard' mean?

It is about **informed decision-making**, and means **consciously considering** the Covenant when **developing, delivering and reviewing policies and decisions** which may impact the Armed Forces Community.

It means placing an appropriate amount of weight on the Covenant principles when all relevant factors are considered.

It does not mean that any particular conclusions have to be reached or specific public service delivery outcomes achieved.

Covenant Duty Extension update



- **We will strengthen our support for Armed Forces Communities by;**
 - Putting the Armed Forces Covenant Duty fully into law.

This means:

- It will stay a duty of due regard to Covenant principles.
 - Bringing UK Government departments & Devolved Governments into scope (in addition to the local bodies).
 - More policy areas to be covered.
 - Each policy area will be covered in a much broader way.

Covenant Duty Extension policy areas



• Employment	• Criminal justice
• Social care	• Immigration
• Childcare	• Citizenship
• Welfare benefits	• Service-related compensation
• Pensions	• Transport
• Personal taxation	

Good practice not Best Practice



Four building blocks of Covenant delivery.

- Collaboration.
- Key individuals.
- Communication training and upskilling.
- Vision and planning.

Support

Forces in Mind Trust Toolkit

Valour



- VALOUR is a new programme giving veterans across the UK easier access to the essential care and support available to them.
- This was announced in May 2025 and is being overseen by the Office for Veterans' Affairs in the Ministry of Defence.
- VALOUR will improve the coordination of services at a national, regional and local level to ensure that veterans receive the support they need.

Valour cont'd...



There are 3 components to VALOUR:

1. VALOUR HQ

- This new team will provide assurance and training across the VALOUR network. It will gather data and insight, working with policy and research teams to ensure services are designed to meet local needs.

2. VALOUR Support Centres

- VALOUR support centres will facilitate access to multiple services for veterans.

3. VALOUR Regional Field officers

- Regional networks will be supported by dedicated, locally based VALOUR regional field officers.

Any Questions?



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