

One minute guide to the Armed Forces Covenant and the Duty of Due Regard

What is the Armed Forces Covenant?

A promise by the nation, founded on the unique obligations and sacrifices of those who serve, or have served, in the Armed Forces, that they and their families should be treated fairly.

- The **Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage** compared to other citizens in the areas where they live 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
- The Armed Forces community should be able to **access services with professionals who understand Armed Forces culture.**
- **Any organisation may make their own Covenant pledge**

What is the Duty of Due Regard to the Covenant?

Introduced in the Armed Forces Act 2021

- **Duty of “Due Regard” to the Covenant placed on Health, Education & Housing organisations from November '22**
- **Statutory “Guidance” issued by MOD**
 - Applies to Service People AKA Armed Forces Community
 - It is **not prescriptive**
 - It **does not mandate** specific delivery outcomes
 - Encourages organisations to draw on their experience & practice with **similar due regard duties** e.g., disability

Who are “Service People”?

- ✓ UK **Regular and Reserve** Forces and **Former members** - AKA **Veterans** - of any of the UK Armed Forces living in the UK
- ✓ **Relevant family members** of the above i.e.
 - ✓ Partners
 - ✓ Under 18s
 - ✓ Relative >18 who is financially dependent, regular and substantial caring responsibilities
- X **Excludes** Merchant Navy, other Nations such as NATO & Commonwealth forces, Cadets Volunteers

[Find out more here](#)



**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT**