



Ministry of Defence

ALISTAIR CARNS DSO OBE MC MP
MINISTER FOR VETERANS AND PEOPLE

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4-4-2-4/KJ

3rd June 2025

Dear Tan,

As a nation, we owe a profound debt to the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, and to their families who stand alongside them. Their courage, resilience, and sacrifice form the bedrock of our national security and shared values. Service life offers exciting opportunities for individuals to develop skills, experience camaraderie, and contribute to something greater than themselves. However, as a nation, we must acknowledge and recognise that service life comes with its own unique sacrifices.

This Government made a manifesto commitment to renew the nation's contract with those who serve and have served. We pledged to honour their sacrifices by embedding the Armed Forces Covenant fully into law, and I am pleased to announce that we are delivering on that promise. This new Armed Forces Covenant Legal Duty will apply to all Government Departments and Devolved Governments in a broad range of policy areas. This decision follows extensive consultation with over 150 organisations, insights from the House of Commons Defence Select Committee report, the continued assessment of known areas of disadvantage and reflects our commitment to strengthen the Nation's contract with those who serve, those who have served and their families.

Embracing a bold stance, the Covenant Legal Duty will extend across key policy areas, encompassing:

- Housing
- Education
- Healthcare
- Social care
- Childcare
- Employment and service in the Armed Forces
- Personal taxation
- Welfare benefits
- Criminal justice
- Immigration
- Citizenship
- Pensions
- Service-related compensation
- Transport

This extension ensures that every Government Department and Devolved Government will give due regard to the Armed Forces Covenant in the development and implementation of policy. It is a significant step toward a more consistent and compassionate system — one that puts the Armed Forces community at the heart of decision making, recognises the distinct challenges our military families face and works actively to remove barriers to opportunity and support.

I want to thank you and the Defence Committee for your continued leadership and recommendations in the HCDC report into the Armed Forces Covenant. Together, we can ensure that the Armed Forces Covenant remains more than words on a page — a living promise, backed by law.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, overlapping loops and strokes, ending in a long horizontal line.

ALISTAIR CARNS MP