



NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board

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:

NHS Gloucestershire ICB

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gill Morgan'.

Name: Dame Gill Morgan

Position: Chair, NHS Gloucestershire ICB

Date: 26th September 2023


Gloucestershire

The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom

His 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, NHS Gloucestershire ICB, 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; and*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate, especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 NHS Gloucestershire ICB recognises the value that 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 fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation;*
- *seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old;*
- *striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners, endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during, and after a partner's deployment;*
- *seeking to support our employees who choose to be supporting our employees who are members of the Reserve Forces; including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible;*
- *offering support to our local cadet units, either in community or in local schools where possible; and*
- *supporting Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day, and Remembrance activities.*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature, on staff notices, and on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community, our staff, and our customers on how we are doing.