



DEBATE PACK

CDP 2018/0256 | 21 November 2018

Armed Forces Covenant

Main Chamber
Thursday 22 November 2018

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1. Background

The Armed Forces Covenant is a statement of the moral obligation which exists between the nation, the Government and the Armed Forces. It was published in May 2011 and its core principles were enshrined in law, for the first time, in the *Armed Forces Act 2011*. It applies to all three services.

The Covenant articulates the view that the nation has a moral obligation to members of the Armed Forces Community in return for the sacrifices they make. Specifically, the Covenant outlines two core principles:

No disadvantage: no current or former member of the armed forces, or their families, should be at a disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services.

Special consideration: special consideration is appropriate in some cases, particularly for those who have been injured or bereaved.

The *Armed Forces Act 2011* does not create legally enforceable rights for Service personnel but it does require the Secretary of State for Defence to report to Parliament each year on the progress made with respect to the Covenant.

On Wednesday 21 November the Government published the Armed Forces Covenant [Annual Report 2018](#). The report highlights all the areas where progress has been achieved over the last year and outlines some key priorities for the future. The [2017 report](#) was published on 18 December 2017. Information on the Covenant is available on a dedicated website: [Armed Forces Covenant](#).

The Defence Committee published its report on the [Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report 2017](#) on 30 June 2018 (HC 707 2017-19) and the [Government response](#) on 26 September 2018. The Committee looked at a range of issues including accommodation, pay, veterans, healthcare and education.

Last week the Government published its first [Strategy for Veterans](#) and led a [debate](#) in the Commons on 15 November 2018. The annual reports on the Covenant will include progress on implementing the Veterans Strategy. Library briefing paper [Support for Veterans](#) outlines the support available to Veterans in the UK.

2. Press Articles

[Tesco enhances its support for the UK Armed Forces](#)

Tesco PLC
31 October 2018

[What Is the Armed Forces Covenant?](#)

Forces Network
John-Paul Tooth and William Warren
7 August 2018

[Military covenant at risk from pay cap and 'lamentable' accommodation provision](#)

Daily Telegraph
Dominic Nicholls
30 June 2018

[Sinn Fein backing military covenant move would show commitment to future – DUP](#)

Mail Online
Press Association
6 May 2018

[Armed Forces Covenant to Become an Independent Trust](#)

Forces Network
2nd March 2018

[Hundreds of Commonwealth veterans who fought for the Crown are living in destitution in Zimbabwe](#)

Daily Telegraph
Ben farmer
18 November 2017

3. PQs

[Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust](#)

05 Nov 2018 | 186240

Asked by: Kevan Jones

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to his oral contribution of 29 October 2018, Official Report, column 658, whether the donation of £10 million to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust raises the Government commitment in perpetuity to £20 million per annum in support of the Covenant.

Answering member: Elizabeth Truss | Treasury

Pursuant to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's oral contribution of 29 October 2018, Official Report, column 658, the £10 million to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust announced at Budget 2018 is a one-off donation in 2018/19, but can be spent by the Trust over multiple years. This is in addition to the £10 million per annum in perpetuity committed by the Government in 2014 to support the Covenant.

[Engagements](#)

24 Oct 2018 | 648 c277

Asked by: Sir Henry Bellingham

Does the Prime Minister agree that when veterans have already been investigated by both military and civilian authorities, they should never be hounded and pursued unless there is overwhelming new evidence? I thank the Prime Minister for her personal engagement on this issue, but does she agree that what is happening to numerous Northern Ireland veterans is against natural justice, damaging to recruitment and contrary to the military covenant?

Answered by: Theresa May | Prime Minister

We owe a vast debt of gratitude to the heroism and bravery of the soldiers and police officers who upheld the rule of law and were themselves accountable to it—something that will always set them apart from and above the terrorists who, during the troubles in Northern Ireland, were responsible for the deaths of hundreds of members of the security forces. The current system in Northern Ireland is flawed. It is not working. It is not working for soldiers, for police officers or for victims; and, of course, that group of victims also includes many soldiers and police officers. Although a number of terrorist murders from the troubles are actively under investigation by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and other police forces, I am clear that there is a disproportionate focus on former members of the armed forces and the police under the current mechanisms for investigating the past. We are committed to ensuring that all outstanding deaths in Northern Ireland should be investigated in a way that is fair, balanced and proportionate.

Medical Records: Veterans**13 Sep 2018 | 170793****Asked by: Grahame Morris**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will introduce a notification on the medical files of military veterans to help increase awareness in the NHS of that service's responsibilities under the Military Covenant.

Answering member: Jackie Doyle-Price | Department of Health and Social Care

General practitioner (GP) Registration forms currently ask if the patient has been a serving member of the armed forces, their address before listing, service or personnel number and enlistment date. Plans are in place to widen the question to also ask if a patient was a regular, reservist or service family member. This can then be recorded and logged on the GP IT system using Read and SNOMED Codes.

Further work is ongoing to increase awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant within the NHS, such as the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Accreditation programme (over 90 GP practices in the pilot area of the West Midlands) and Veterans Covenant Hospital Alliance, improved e-learning packages and it also forms part of the curriculum for all GPs nationally and is tested in the RCGP membership exam.

Veterans**24 July 2018 | 164399****Asked by: Dr Matthew Offord**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the timetable is for the next steps in his Department's veterans strategy; and what progress he has made in assisting those who (a) become homeless, (b) develop mental illness and (c) experience other personal crises.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

The Government's Veterans Strategy champions the changing needs of the ex-Service community. Although the initiative is overseen by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), a task force consisting of Ministers from HM Treasury, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Department for Education and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) will help support and implement the strategy.

The strategy will build on the Armed Forces Covenant to show that our commitment to our Service personnel lasts long after they have left the Armed Forces.

The MOD continues to engage with a wide variety of agencies who assist in homelessness and rough sleeping for veterans. Under the Armed Forces Covenant veterans and disabled personnel already have high priority access to social housing, including a five-year exemption for veterans after they have left the Services from proving a local connection to qualify for social housing.

The MOD will be covered by the new MHCLG led statutory requirement scheduled to come into effect this autumn to refer those Service personnel at risk of homelessness when they leave the Armed Forces to the relevant local authority.

It is the National Health Service in England and the Devolved Administrations that has the lead for the provision of healthcare, including mental healthcare, for veterans and we work with DHSC and the NHS to ensure a smooth transition for those Service personnel being discharged with mental health problems.

Support and assistance is available for veterans, including those with personal crises, from MOD's Veterans UK free helpline (0808 1914 218), Veterans UK Veterans Welfare Service and the Veterans' Gateway.

Veterans: Mental Health
27 Jun 2018 | 155220

Asked by: Madeleine Moon

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 14 June 2018 to Question 151105 on Veterans: Social Security Benefits, what training is offered by his Department to staff of the Department for Work and Pensions to increase their understanding of veterans' mental health.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence's Veterans Welfare Service (VWS) works closely with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and provides regular briefings on the remit of the VWS to the designated Armed Forces Champions in DWP, many of whom are ex-Service personnel.

The VWS uses these opportunities to raise awareness of veterans' issues, including mental health. VWS staff also participate in Armed Forces Covenant meetings, which include members of DWP and many of the Service charities.

Armed Forces Veterans: Legacy Investigations
20 Jun 2018 | 643 c318

Asked by: Mark Francois

This House knows that, were it not for the bravery of the British Army, the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary, George Cross, there would never have been a Good Friday agreement. Yet the Secretary of State's proposals include legacy investigations into veterans—in some cases going back 50 years. Will she agree to give evidence to the Defence Committee inquiry into this matter so that we can ask her how her proposals are compatible with the principles of the armed forces covenant?

Answered by: Karen Bradley | Northern Ireland

I agree wholeheartedly with my right hon. Friend. As I said at the recent Police Federation conference in Northern Ireland, we owe all those who served an enormous debt of gratitude. Without the contribution of our

armed forces and police, there would quite simply have been no peace process in Northern Ireland. I want to reassure my right hon. Friend that we are consulting on how to address the legacy of the past. This is a consultation.

Veterans: Social Security Benefits

14 Jun 2018 | 151105

Asked by: Madeleine Moon

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on improving ex-service personnel's access to support, benefits and work.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

I regularly meet my counterpart from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to discuss these issues. Veterans' access to support, benefits and work is being considered as part of the Veterans Strategy. The strategy is owned by the Ministerial Covenant and Veterans Board of which the DWP are members, and is co-chaired by the Defence Secretary. The DWP already have Armed Forces Covenant champions in each Job Centre Plus district and veterans' employment levels are on a par with national averages, and better for those Service leavers who use the Ministry of Defence's Career Transition Partnership.

Armed Forces Covenant

24 May 2018 | 145378

Asked by: Rachael Maskell

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many businesses have signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant since its commencement.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

As at 22 May 2018 a total of 2,541 organisations have signed the Armed Forces Covenant. Details of all Armed Forces Covenant signatories and their pledges are available on the gov.uk website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/armed-forces-covenant>

Homelessness: Veterans

17 May 2018 | 142829

Asked by: Jonathan Edwards

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what support his Department provides to veterans who have left the armed forces and become homeless.

Answering member: Rishi Sunak | Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

The Government is strongly committed to the Armed Forces Covenant and has taken significant action to ensure that serving personnel and veterans do not face any disadvantage as a result of their brave service for this country. That is why we are working closely with the Ministry of

Defence as part of our cross-government Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Reduction Taskforce to achieve our commitment of halving rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminating it by 2027.

In addition, as part of the Homelessness Reduction Act, the duty to refer will ensure that armed forces personnel leaving the service, who are at risk of homelessness, are referred to a local authority for support.

Armed Forces Covenant: Northern Ireland

20 Apr 2018 | 135237

Asked by: David Simpson

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if his Department will take steps ensure the full implementation of the Military Covenant in Northern Ireland.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

The Armed Forces Covenant has always applied throughout the UK and its specific implementation will rightly vary according to local and regional factors in the Devolved Administrations. In Northern Ireland, we continue to engage with statutory providers and the charitable sector to ensure the Armed Forces community is not disadvantaged as a result of service.

Recent and ongoing examples of work to implement the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland include: the establishment of the Veterans Support Office; the allocation of £300,000 to improve the capacity and capability of Local Authorities and other service providers to apply for Covenant Funding and; supporting the University of Ulster's programme to help better understand the numbers of veterans in Northern Ireland, where they live, the key issues they face and how best to communicate with them.

These initiatives build on the framework already in place through the bespoke Ulster Defence Regiment and Royal Irish Aftercare Service. Northern Irish members of the Armed Forces Community also benefit from UK-wide initiatives, such as the Veterans' Gateway.

Ministry of Defence: LIBOR

14 Mar 2018 | 131325

Asked by: Nia Griffith

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under- Secretary of State for Defence of 5th March 2018, Official Report, column 12, how his Department defines (a) additional facilities and (b) core activities.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is clear that LIBOR funding should not be used to fund Departmental core responsibilities. The funding application form explicitly states that funds cannot be used to top-up existing grants and aids from Government Departments or for projects, activities or services that the State has a legal obligation to provide. The

use of LIBOR fines to support additional facilities and programmes over and above the core activities, support, and infrastructure provided by the MOD is entirely consistent with the scope of the LIBOR fund.

Armed Forces related LIBOR grants, including bespoke funds such as the Armed Forces Covenant Fund and Aged Veterans Fund, are committed by HM Treasury and administered by the MOD. Veterans, emergency services charities and other related good causes benefit from hundreds of millions of pounds from LIBOR banking fines. Money given to Departments since 2012 from these fines is ring fenced to be spent on these worthy causes. Funding for centres and facilities is consistent with supporting good causes and is making a difference to the Armed Forces community.

As part of the routine governance of the LIBOR fund, in early 2017 the Treasury commissioned a review of all LIBOR grants committed since 2012. This review, which will include all LIBOR grants made directly by HM Treasury, as well as grants awarded under the Covenant Fund, the Aged Veterans Fund and the Veterans Accommodation Fund, will report in summer 2018. The National Audit Office have been kept fully informed of the progress of the review.

As the Minister responsible for Service people and veterans, I meet regularly with Service charity representatives and discuss a wide range of issues, including funding.

Armed Forces Covenant

05 March 2018 | 637 c12

Asked by: Tom Pursglove

What steps he is taking to encourage more organisations to participate in the Armed Forces Covenant.

Answered by: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

The armed forces covenant annual report was published in December 2017. I am pleased to say that more than 2,000 organisations and companies are now signed up. The new cross-Whitehall body, the veterans board, chaired by the Defence Secretary, is used to ensure that all Government Departments meet their covenant commitments.

Asked by: Tom Pursglove

I am very grateful to my right hon. Friend for that answer. What conversations has he had with colleagues in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government about ensuring that there is better understanding in local government of their duties and obligations and what they need to be doing under the covenant?

Answered by: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

My hon. Friend raises an important point. It is important that each Department understands its commitments. That is why I stressed the importance of the veterans board, on which the Secretaries of State of all the Departments are represented. We now have proper assessment techniques to make sure that Departments' commitments—in that case, to do with housing—are met.

Asked by: Gerald Jones

Members across the House and people across the country were horrified to read last week that the Ministry of Defence had taken money raised from the LIBOR funds that was supposed to benefit forces charities and support the delivery of the armed forces covenant, and instead spent it on projects—albeit worthy ones—that should be part of routine departmental spending. We know that things are bad in the MOD, but it can hardly consider itself a charity. Can the Minister tell the House how that was allowed to happen? More importantly, will the Ministry be paying the money back?

Answered by: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

I also saw those comments in the press. It is important to understand that LIBOR grants are there for additional facilities. The MOD has a responsibility to provide core activities. Obviously there is a grey area between a core activity and an additional facility. I am more than happy to look at the details of what the hon. Gentleman raises, and I will write to him.

[Armed Forces Covenant](#)

15 January 2018 | 634 cc589-590

Asked by: Mary Creagh

Whether he has plans to strengthen the armed forces covenant.

Asked by: Sir David Amess

What progress he has made on establishing an armed forces covenant and veterans board.

Answered by: Gavin Williamson | Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence published the armed forces covenant annual report in December 2017, which outlined the progress made to strengthen the covenant. Notable achievements include the establishment of a new ministerial covenant and veterans board, which had its first meeting in October 2017. The next ministerial covenant and veterans board meeting is due in the spring.

Asked by: Mary Creagh

I thank the Secretary of State for that reply. Before Christmas, I visited the Community Awareness Project in Wakefield, and many of its homeless clients are former armed services personnel. The Veterans Association UK estimates that there are 13,000 homeless veterans. They are guaranteed priority access to social housing under the armed forces covenant, but it is impossible to know that unless they are counted in the census. Will he commit—here, today—to count armed forces personnel and veterans in the census, as recommended by the Office for National Statistics?

Answered by: Gavin Williamson | Ministry of Defence

I thank the hon. Lady for highlighting that, and I assure her that, yes, we will do so.

Asked by: Sir David Amess

Will my right hon. Friend tell the House what his Department is doing to support wonderful local charities, such as the Leigh-on-Sea branch of

the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes, in helping veterans to tackle isolation and loneliness?

Answered by: Gavin Williamson | Ministry of Defence

The point my hon. Friend raises is very valuable. We have to be reaching out to so many veterans, who have given so much to our country over so many years, and the work of Help for Heroes and the Leigh-on-Sea branch of the Royal British Legion is absolutely pivotal to that. We have recently seen investment of £2 million to create the veterans' gateway, which is there to make sure that veterans are signposted to the charities, support organisations and of course Government organisations that can best support them if they are suffering from loneliness or need other additional help. May I take this opportunity to thank the Royal British Legion—at Leigh-on-Sea and at so many other branches across the country—which continues to do so much for our veterans, day in and day out?

Asked by: Carol Monaghan

The armed forces covenant is currently more of a statement of intent than a statement of action, and it does not guarantee the support that serving personnel and veterans require. Does the Secretary of State agree that putting an armed forces representative body on a statutory footing would be a bold commitment to ensure proper representation of personnel and veterans?

Answered by: Gavin Williamson | Ministry of Defence

What we have done is to create the veterans board. It was previously co-chaired by my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green) and me, and it will now be co-chaired by me and the Minister for the Cabinet Office. We have found that the feedback about what we have been doing and trying to achieve in creating the board has been very positive. This is about not just the Ministry of Defence, but every Department, every local authority in the country and businesses helping and supporting our veterans and our service personnel.

Asked by: Dr Andrew Murrison

Housing regularly tops the list of concerns expressed by the Army Families Federation, as my right hon. Friend will know. Since 2014, CarillionAmey has been responsible for 50,000 service homes, and its website boasts that 1,500 calls are taken from concerned service families every day. What will he do, given that Carillion is about to collapse, to ensure that those calls are responded to appropriately in the immediate term and that service housing is dealt with in the longer term?

Answered by: Gavin Williamson | Ministry of Defence

I thank my hon. Friend for his question. There were some problems, and the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), has done an awful lot of work with CarillionAmey to tackle these issues. We will be making every effort to ensure that the accommodation provided by the partners with which we work and from which our service personnel benefit is of the highest standards.

Asked by Nia Griffith

Housing for our armed forces families is indeed an important part of the covenant. I recognise that CarillionAmey is a separate entity from the parent company, Carillion, but, given the concerns about its capacity and performance and today's worrying news, what contingency plans does the Minister have in the event of unforeseen knock-on effects on armed forces housing?

Answered by: Gavin Williamson | Ministry of Defence

I assure the House that we have been monitoring the situation closely and working with our industrial partners. There will be a Cobra meeting later today to discuss addressing some of the most immediate issues, and the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East, will do what he can, working with Amey and the separate business, to make sure that standards are driven up and no one notices

4. Gov.uk

[Britain's top armed forces-friendly employers honoured](#)

Ministry of Defence

13 November 2018

51 businesses were last night honoured for their commitment to the military, including employing former service personnel, their families and reservists.

The MOD's Employer Recognition Scheme 'Gold Awards' awards were handed out by the Defence Secretary and HRH Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, to businesses and organisations who have shown outstanding support for the military community and the Armed Forces Covenant.

Employers won awards for initiatives such as employing veterans, supporting individuals transitioning out of the armed forces into a new career, and providing flexibility for reservists.

The 51 winners have been recognised for their long-term commitment to the armed forces, with organisations from the public and private sector achieving the top grade. Each has signed the Armed Forces Covenant, and where possible, engages with the MOD's Career Transition Partnership (CTP) to promote the recruitment of service leavers, as well as honouring individual pledges of support. Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

Those who have served our country so courageously deserve the full support of organisations across the public and private sector.

The breadth and diversity of this year's Gold Award winners shows how business support for the armed forces continues to flourish. I offer my gratitude and congratulations to all the winners.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood said:

When people leave the armed forces, they do so with unique skills and experiences that can benefit businesses and organisations across the country.

These awards show just how valued and in demand these skills are. I encourage more businesses to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant and show their support for our brave service leavers.

This week the Government will launch its first UK wide Veterans Strategy which brings together aspirations and commitments from across government for championing the needs of the ex-service community.

The Government has a wide range of schemes in place to support service personnel and veterans. From encouraging employers to recognise the value the military community to business through the Armed Forces Covenant to committing £22million of funding for mental

health over the next decade for service personnel and £10million for veterans.

[Post Office and MOD agree new partnership on veterans employment](#)

**Ministry of Defence
7 November 2018**

The Ministry of Defence and the Post Office have agreed a new partnership to support veterans entering employment, as the company became the 3000th organisation to sign the Armed Forces Covenant.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation to those who serve or who have served, and their families, that they should be treated fairly and are not disadvantaged in their day-to-day lives. As part of their pledge, the Post Office will encourage ex-service personnel to apply for vacancies, offer bespoke training and support reservists and cadet volunteers with their commitments.

The signing took place at a Service of Remembrance to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, attended by Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson and Group CEO of the Post Office, Paula Vennells.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

The Post Office has a long and distinguished history with the Armed Forces and it is fitting they are the 3000th signatory of the Armed Forces Covenant.

Those who have served our country so courageously deserve the full support of organisations and businesses across the public and private sector.

Today, the Post Office has demonstrated the value that reservist and ex-service personnel can bring to businesses.

From today, the Post Office will work with the MOD's Career Transition Partnership (CTP) to facilitate employment for former service personnel by advertising their vacancies on the CTP's website. They will also offer a specialist training programme, commit to hiring a certain number of veterans, and offer paid leave for reservists and time off for any deployment commitments.

Alongside this, they will support the Cadet Force by granting adult volunteers five days paid leave for their annual camp and establish a new Post Office Armed Forces Network for those with links to the military.

Paula Vennells, Group CEO of Post Office, said:

It's a real honour to sign the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of the Post Office at this very special service, recognising the value that our

serving personnel, both Regular and Reservists, veterans and military families contribute in the present to our business and our country.

We know that having a diverse workforce brings huge benefits to a business; and our ex-Armed Forces colleagues and those in the Reserves are a unique and vital asset to the Post Office. We want to thank them for their service and to ensure that we continue to create a business in which everyone can thrive and develop as part of the Post Office team.

The signing took place at St Botolph's-Without-Aldersgate Church in central London – a poignant location as inside the Church is a dedicated memorial and battle flag of the Post Office Rifles, the General Post Office's own battalion, who served with distinction, earning high praise and a prestigious place in British military history. More than 75,000 General Post Office employees left their roles to fight in the War, with 12,000 joining the Post Office Rifles.

The Armed Forces Covenant was established in 2011, is a whole of government responsibility, and includes signatories from across organisations, businesses and charities. Support is provided in a number of areas, including education, starting a new career and access to healthcare.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood added:

Our Armed Forces are one of the most professional forces in the world. Our people are brave, disciplined and natural leaders.

Organisations such as the Post Office can thrive by taking advantage of these transferable skills. I encourage more businesses to sign up.

[50 employers awarded gold for supporting the armed forces](#)
Ministry of Defence
2 August 2018

The 'Gold Awards' awards announced by the MOD today are for businesses and organisations who have shown outstanding support for the military community and the Armed Forces Covenant.

Employers have won awards for initiatives such as employing veterans, supporting individuals transitioning out of the armed forces into a new career, and providing flexibility for reservists.

Now in its fifth year, the MOD's Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Awards represent the highest badge of honour available to those that employ and support those who serve, veterans, and their families.

The 50 winners have been recognised for their long-term commitment to the armed forces, with organisations from the public and private sector achieving the top grade. Each has signed the Armed Forces Covenant, and where possible, engages with the MOD's Career Transition Partnership (CTP) to promote the recruitment of service leavers, as well as honouring individual pledges of support.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood said:

The breadth and diversity of this year's winners shows how business support for the armed forces continues to flourish. Their commitment is a testament to the fantastic contribution our serving personnel, veterans and their families can make to any organisation.

We all have a role to play in ensuring that the armed forces community is not disadvantaged by service, and each of these employers is a setting an example as meaningful advocates for those protecting the nation.

The 2018 Employer Recognition Scheme Gold award winners are:

[...]

5. Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Statements

[Strategy For Our Veterans](#)

14 November 2018 | HCWS1080

[Education Support Fund](#)

24 July 2018 | HCWS908

[Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland - Response to a Resolution of the House - 7 March 2018](#)

23 May 2018 | HCWS711

[Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report](#)

18 December 2017 | HCWS360

5.2 Debates

[Veterans Strategy](#)

15 November 2018 | 649 cc497-540

[Veterans Strategy](#)

15 November 2018 | 793 cc2031-2061

[Armed Forces Veterans](#)

28 June 2018 | 643 cc1145-1154

[Armed Forces Covenant: Northern Ireland](#)

07 March 2018 | 637 cc388-420

[Combat Compensation](#)

20 July 2017 | 627 cc411-424WH

5.3 Early Day Motions

[Recognising post-traumatic stress disorder](#)

EDM 197 (session 2017-19)

Tim Farron

17 July 2017

That this House congratulates the Sunday People on its Save Our Soldiers campaign to raise awareness of the devastating impact of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); notes Lord Dannatt's view that failure to recognise PTSD as a serious and debilitating condition breaches the Military Covenant and the Government is therefore breaking the law; calls for an independent inquiry to explore any link between incidents of suicide amongst veterans and PTSD and how better to co-ordinate help

across the country for those affected; and asks the Ministry of Defence to give PTSD the priority it warrants.

Distribution of Armed Forces Covenant funding

EDM 419 (session 2016-17)

Jeffrey Donaldson

7 September 2016

That this House is concerned with the distribution of Armed Forces Covenant funding across all of the UK; notes that the regions of Northern Ireland and Wales are the lowest of the 10 UK regions in terms of successful small grant applications and total amount awarded in 2015-16; and further notes that no grants were awarded under two of the three large grant themes with a focus upon those regions.

6. Further reading

6.1 Government

[The Armed Forces Covenant](#) (Official website)

[Armed Forces Covenant](#) (Gov.uk)

[Armed Forces Covenant annual report 2017](#) (Gov.uk)

[The strategy for our veterans: valued. contributing. supported.](#) Ministry of Defence, November 2018

6.2 House of Commons Library

[Support for UK Veterans](#), Commons Briefing paper, CBP-7693, 14 November 2018

[Veterans' Strategy](#), Commons Debate pack, CDP 2018-0253, 14 November 2018

[Housing options for serving and ex-military personnel](#), Commons Briefing paper, SN04244, 29 Oct 2018

[Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland](#), Commons Debate pack, CDP 2018-0063, 6 March 2018

6.3 Defence Committee reports

[Mental health and the Armed Forces, Part One: The Scale of mental health issues: Government Response to the Committee's Eleventh Report](#), Twelfth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Defence Committee, HC 1635, 16 October 2018

[Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report 2017: Government Response to the Committee's Ninth Report](#), Eleventh Special Report of Session 2017–19, Defence Committee, HC 1571, 26 September 2018

[Mental Health and the Armed Forces, Part One: The Scale of mental health issues](#), Eleventh Report of Session 2017–19, Defence Committee, HC 813, 25 July 2018

[Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report 2017](#), Ninth Report of Session 2017–19, Defence Committee, HC 707, 30 June 2018

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