

News story: Britain leads first ever European conference on veterans mental health

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood hosted the conference, which included delegations from Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

The conference, the first meeting of its kind, saw Ministers and military officials from six NATO countries share best practice on veterans issues and discuss how nations can further mental health support for former service personnel.

Opening the conference, Mr Ellwood outlined to delegates that while most veterans go on live happy, healthy and successful lives, all Governments had the responsibility to look after the mental health of those who have served.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood said:

In order to recruit the next generation of soldiers, sailors and airmen and women, we need to show that we look after our service personnel and veterans.

Britain is not unique in facing this challenge. That's why it's vital that we discuss these issues and share best practice with our close European military partners.

Tobias Ellwood with delegations from Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and The Netherlands.

At today's meeting, Mr Ellwood addressed the need to counter the negative perceptions of veterans. He told the conference that while more needs to be done to help veterans, it's unhelpful that, despite statistics which prove otherwise, many people think that service life leaves people damaged.

Figures released today show that rates of mental disorder amongst serving armed forces personnel (3.1%) remain slightly below those of the general population (3.5%). Rates of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder also remain low, with 2 in every 1000 personnel assessed with having the disorder in 2016/17.

Every study conducted by the Ministry of Defence has also found that the risk of suicide among the Armed Forces community, including veterans of the Falklands conflict and the Gulf War, is lower than amongst the general population. The UK regular Armed Forces male rate of suicide for 2017 is 8 per 100,000. The UK general population male rate in 2016 was 19 per 100,000.

Support on offer

The Ministry of Defence is now spending some up to £220 million over the next decade to improve mental health services for serving personnel.

While the provision of veterans' healthcare is the responsibility of the NHS in England and the Devolved Administrations, the MOD is working closely with all relevant government departments to make sure the unique needs of veterans are addressed.

Veterans in England, Scotland and Wales receive priority access to NHS specialist care for conditions stemming from their military service.

Last year the government created a Ministerial Covenant and Veterans Board, to coordinate and address veterans specific issues across all relevant government departments. The board will be presented with the first ever veterans strategy in the autumn

In 2017 the Veterans Gateway was also launched, providing a single point of contact for veterans, service personnel and their families to get the right information advice and support 24/7. The MOD provides £2 million to fund the helpline.

[Check and update your charity details](#)

From 12 November 2018, the first time you [log in to your online account](#) to do your annual return or update your charity details you will need to check and confirm your charity details are correct, or update them if needed.

This [guide explains what information is covered by the service](#) (ODT, 139KB) so you can collect information before you log in. It also explains which information will be available to the public on the charity register.

The service will:

- guide you through 6 separate pages that show all your charity details
- highlight where you have missing information that needs to be provided to us (this will be tailored to your charity depending on how up to date your details are on the register)

You will be able to save your information and return back to the service if needed. When all the missing information has been provided on each page, and you confirm details are correct, you will be able to continue to submit your annual return.

You only need to provide missing information the first time you log in to do your annual return, or update your charity details (from 12 November 2018).

When you need to update your charity details in future you can choose which sections or information to edit and update.

Trustees of all charities have a legal obligation to keep the details on the charity register accurate and up to date. This helps maintain public trust and confidence in the charity sector and enables us to contact you with important regulatory information.

There have also been some other changes to this service, which are explained below.

Changes to public display names for trustees

Trustees will not be able to add a public display name on the charity register. Their full legal name will show to the public.

This is because charity trusteeship is a serious responsibility. Trustees have independent control over, and legal responsibility for, a charity's management and administration. They need to be accountable to the public.

If trustees have been granted a dispensation for their legal name not to be displayed to the public on the register, this will be retained. There will be no need to apply for a dispensation again.

You need to check that the details for your trustees remain up to date. This includes adding any new trustees and their contact details.

You must make sure that each person named is not [disqualified from acting as a trustee](#).

You will need to remove the details of any trustees who are no longer involved with your charity.

When you update trustee details, if they are linked to other charities the changes will take effect across all other charity entries too. This will help to keep the register accurate and reduce duplicate entries.

Trustees will also need to provide their home address and telephone number. This helps with validating the identity of trustees. No trustee contact details or home addresses will be shown to the public.

Changes to email addresses

All trustees will need to provide their email address, or confirm that they do not have one.

We will use this email address to contact trustees about their charity. The address that is provided will be applied to all their entries on the register.

We will only contact trustees by email if we are handling a case about your charity, or to provide regulatory alerts and updates to help you to run your

charity effectively.

We will not send you unsolicited email, marketing materials or anything outside of our regulatory remit.

Changes to bank account information

You will need to provide details of all your charity's UK bank/building society accounts. This information will not be available to the public.

We will use the information to make sure that charities are protecting and managing their funds appropriately, where we need to. Trustees have a duty to act responsibly, reasonably and honestly and protect charity funds and assets so that they are only used to support or carry out its purposes.

Working inside the regulated banking system is the best way to achieve this. Holding a bank account also aids with transparency providing an audit trail and records, such as bank statements.

Data processing

You can read [our privacy notice](#) which explains how we process data when you update or change your charity details.

[News story: Poundworld Retail Limited in administration: how to claim redundancy or register as a creditor](#)

Information for former employees

If you've been dismissed

If you've been dismissed, you might be entitled to redundancy pay, holiday pay and statutory notice pay from the Insolvency Service.

The amount the Insolvency Service can pay you will be subject to certain legal limits. Information about the legal limits is [available](#).

Other money you're owed will be paid to you automatically through the company's payroll. This includes salary, wages, or overtime you're owed.

Who is eligible

You can to apply to the Insolvency Service for redundancy pay, holiday pay

and statutory notice pay if:

If you live in Northern Ireland you will need to make your application through The Department for the Economy. Find out about [your rights in Northern Ireland if your employer is insolvent](#).

[Workers](#) and [self-employed contractors](#) who provided services to the company are not eligible to apply. Instead, these individuals should [contact the administrator to register as creditors](#).

How to apply

The Administrator will give details about how to apply and will also give you a case reference number (eg CN12345678).

Once you have this information you can [apply online](#).

Paying your claim

Once you submit your online application, it takes us an average of 14 days to process your application and pay claims.

However, sometimes we need to get additional information from you or from the administrator. This can take a bit of time.

We'll contact you directly if we need anything from you.

We always try to pay eligible claims within 6 weeks of receiving the application.

Please don't contact us to check the status of your application until after the six weeks have passed. This will help us deal with everyone's application as quickly as possible.

Getting help

If you have questions about your situation or about any wages, salary, or overtime you're owed, you can contact the administrator by:

- phone: 020 7303 3399
- [Email](#)

If you need help completing your application, you can contact the Insolvency Service's Redundancy Payments helpline on 0330 331 0020.

When calling, please have your case reference number (eg CN12345678) and National Insurance number to hand. If you do not have a case reference number, please contact the administrator.

If you need to email us after submitting your claim, please only use the email address you gave on your application form. Otherwise, we won't be able to respond to you for security reasons.

Other support available to you

JobCentre Plus, through its Rapid Response Service, is ready to support any employee affected by this announcement.

Support could include:

- helping people facing redundancy to write CVs and find jobs
- providing general information about benefits
- helping people to find the right training and learn new skills
- helping with costs like travel to work expenses.

In Scotland, redundancy support is provided through the Scottish Government's Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) – there is more information on the [Skills Development Scotland website](#).

In Wales, the service is delivered by the [ReAct scheme](#).

In Northern Ireland, for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Income Support, contact your [Jobs and Benefits office](#). For Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), contact the [ESA Centre](#).

Contact [Acas](#) (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) for help and advice on dealing with redundancy.

Anyone worried about their pension situation can ring [The Pension Advisory Service \(TPAS\)](#) on 0300 123 1047 for free and impartial guidance.

[Factsheet: finding a new job, managing your finances and benefits available to you.](#)

Information for creditors

You'll need to register as a creditor in the administration if:

- you haven't been paid for goods or services you've supplied to Poundworld
- you've paid Poundworld for goods or services that you haven't received

Information about how to register as a creditor can be found on the administrator's website.

If you have any questions, you can contact the Insolvency Enquiry Line.

The Insolvency Enquiry Line can give you general information about:

- insolvency
- redundancy
- what redundancy payments offices do
- where you can go to get the information or advice you need

[Policy paper: UK strategy for radioactive discharges: 2018 review of the 2009 strategy](#)

The UK is a signatory to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (the 'OSPAR Convention'). The OSPAR Convention identifies threats to the marine environment and organises programmes and measures designed to ensure effective national action to combat them. One of the key work areas of OSPAR is on radioactive substances.

The [2009 Radioactive Discharges Strategy](#) alongside the [OSPAR Radioactive Substances Strategy](#), aims to prevent pollution of the OSPAR maritime area (the North East Atlantic) from radiation through progressive and substantial reductions of discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances.

The 2018 Review shows the UK is making good progress towards achieving the outcomes in the 2009 strategy, and that the UK is contributing towards meeting the objectives of the OSPAR strategy.

[Press release: Sentence doubled for man who violently attacked victim in Sheffield home](#)

A man who attempted to violently rob a vulnerable family friend has today had his sentence increased after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, referred his sentence for being too low.

The victim let Bernie Ward, 32, into his home in January and the two had a conversation before Ward began punching the victim in the face and threatening him with a knife. The victim suffered a stab-wound to the arm, bleeding on the brain which led to an uncommon form of stroke, and serious bruising and cuts.

Ward was originally sentenced at Sheffield Crown Court in April, where he received 3 years 4 months' imprisonment. Today, after the Solicitor General's referral, the Court of Appeal increased his sentence to 6 years 8 months.

Commenting on the sentence increase, the Solicitor General said:

Ward targeted a victim he knew to be vulnerable and subjected him to a brutal attack in his own home. I hope that the Court of Appeal's decision today sends a clear message to anyone despicable enough to consider abusing a vulnerable member of their community – you will not escape justice.