

# **NEW OFFICE FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS WILL ENSURE THE UK LEADS THE WORLD IN CARE FOR ARMED FORCES VETERANS**

UK Government News

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## **Body**

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U.K., Oct. 16 -- The UK Government made the following announcement:

The new office sits within the Cabinet Office and will pull together all functions of government, and better co-ordinate charity sector provision.

In his first week in office, Prime Minister Boris Johnson established an Office for **Veterans'** Affairs at the heart of government and jointly run by Cabinet Office Ministers Oliver Dowden and Johnny Mercer. The creation was part of a government commitment to ensure world-class provision of life-long **veterans'** care services in this country.

Following consultation with **veterans**, charities and civil society groups government can today announce the full scope of the Office, and the programme of work for the months ahead.

Retired Colonel David Richmond CBE, a former Commanding Officer of 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, who served in Afghanistan and Iraq and subsequently became the Recovery Director at Help for Heroes, has been appointed to head up the OVA.

The OVA has been tasked with:

Pulling together all functions of government, and better co-ordinating charity sector provision, in order to ensure this nation's life-long duty to those who have served

Ensuring that every single **veteran** and their family knows where to turn to access support when required

Helping to generate a 'single view of the **veteran**' by making better use of data to understand **veterans'** needs and where gaps in provision exist

Improving the perception of **veterans**

The OVA will lead in ensuring the whole of government is delivering better outcomes for **veterans**, particularly in areas such as mental health, employment and housing. It will work in partnership with local authorities and the Devolved Administrations to coordinate activity across the United Kingdom.

Cabinet Minister, Oliver Dowden, represents the Office for **Veterans'** Affairs in Cabinet. He said:

I want the UK to be the best place in the world to be a **veteran**.

Through the new Office for **Veterans'** Affairs we can make sure that government delivers on its promises to those who have served and make it easier for **veterans** and their families to get the support they need. The office will also celebrate the brilliant contribution **veterans** make in many other walks of life after they leave service.

David Richmond CBE said:

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I'm honoured to take on this role. As a **veteran**, I understand the struggles that some face and leading the OVA will provide a unique opportunity to serve our **veteran** community as they transition to civilian life and to ensure that the experience and the support they receive is world-leading.

I also know that our former military personnel are hugely talented, committed and have a range of skills, experiences and qualifications that we must ensure continues to benefit UK society. I want the OVA to champion **veterans** and ensure that their skills and talents are recognised fully by employers, business and wider society.

Minister for Defence People and **Veterans** Johnny Mercer said:

As we reset this country's relationship with her **veterans**, we're making progress with establishing the Office for **Veterans** Affairs.

David's knowledge and experience of both military life and our **veterans** community will mean that the OVA will make a huge difference to our former service personnel. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [contentservices@htlive.com](mailto:contentservices@htlive.com)

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