

# [News story: Bids open to host annual Armed Forces Day National Event in 2019](#)

The military parade at the Armed Forces Day National Event 2017 in Liverpool.

In 2019, Armed Forces Day will celebrate eleven years of supporting our Armed Forces Community, from serving personnel and reserves to veterans, cadets and families.

The eleventh Armed Forces Day, on Saturday 29 June 2019, will be a chance for the British public to show their gratitude to the Armed Forces for their hard work and sacrifice, to keep us safe at home and abroad.

Defence Minister for the Lords, Earl Howe, said:

This is a fantastic opportunity for a town or city to be at the centrepiece of the nationwide celebration as events and celebrations take place up and down the country.

In recent years the Armed Forces Day National Event has been held right across the country, showing the spectrum of British society – from the nation's capitals like Edinburgh and Cardiff to Liverpool and coastal communities like Cleethorpes and Blackpool.

This year's event will be hosted by the historic North Wales seaside town of Llandudno. The hosts, Conwy Council, have a spectacular range of celebrations planned to show their gratitude to the Armed Forces community. Councillor Gareth Jones, Leader of Conwy County Borough Council, said:

We are proud and privileged to be named as the Host of the National Armed Forces Day in 2018.

Conwy County has a deep affiliation with the Armed Forces and a strong historical link. Llandudno will be a great destination to showcase the outstanding work of the Armed Forces past and present.

The event will be supported by all the North Wales Councils and key colleagues across Wales. Serving personnel and veterans of our Armed Forces Community will be assured of a very warm welcome and an event that thanks them for their commitment to keeping the country safe.

Anyone interested in becoming the 2019 host should contact the Ministry of

Defence Armed Forces Day team for more information by email at [armedforcesday-events@mod.uk](mailto:armedforcesday-events@mod.uk) or by telephone on 020 7807 0970. The deadline for applications to be considered as host is 15 March 2018.

More information about Armed Forces Day is available at [armedforcesday.org.uk](http://armedforcesday.org.uk)

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## **News story: Could it be Edward, urgent appeal for family of Bedfordshire sergeant killed in World War 1**

Edward Norton was a Sergeant of the 7th Battalion Durham Light Infantry when he lost his life in September 1918. His body was never found. Today, the MOD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre is appealing for his family to get in touch after a set of human remains were discovered near the town of Gavrelle in northern France, the place where he fell a century ago.

Born in Stotfold, Bedfordshire in 1881 to Augustus and Mary Ann Norton. Edward originally served in the Bedfordshire Regiment before transferring to the Durham Light Infantry. He married Susan Agnes Bushwell in 1907 and according to the 1911 census, his last known address was 22 Pondwicks Road, Luton.

Now an appeal has been launched by the MOD JCCC to trace Edward's surviving relatives so they can be invited to undertake a DNA test to prove whether or not the remains are his. If there is a match, the family will be invited to attend a full military burial service in March.

Louise Dorr from the JCCC said:

As a result of our extensive research, these remains are very likely to be 1 of only 2 missing soldiers, so there should be a very good chance of identifying him. He is to be buried in France on 15 March. Rather than bury him as an unknown soldier, I would love to be able to identify him so that his headstone may bear his name.

She added:

There are still so many 1000s of men lost in the Great War who have no known grave. To be able to identify just 1 of them takes a huge amount of research. Most importantly, it brings their individual story to an end and fills in the gaps in their family history.

If you can help with tracing Edward's family, please call Louise on 01452 712612 extension 5465 or via email: [DBS-JCCCCommem4S03@mod.uk](mailto:DBS-JCCCCommem4S03@mod.uk).

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## [News story: The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport reappoints Nicola Roche to the Board of UK Sport.](#)

Nicky Roche was a Senior Civil Servant until 2013, including within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. She is now Director of Strategy for Sporting Assets, a social enterprise which works with communities to use sport for wider social benefit such as employment, health and education. She has been reappointed to the Board of UK Sport and will continue to chair their major events panel. She is a Trustee of the Rees Care Leavers Foundation and the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust. She recently chaired the independent panel supporting DCMS in assessing English city bids to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Nicky was Chief Executive of TdFHUB2014ltd, leading the co-ordination of the first three days of the 2014 Tour de France from Yorkshire to London. In 2007, she became Director of Operations, Government Olympic Executive. Alongside being one of the leaders on the logistical delivery of the Games, as a member of the senior leadership team Nicky also helped ensure that the budget of £9.3bn was managed and outcomes were on time and to quality. Prior to this Nicky held the post of Director of Sport and Board Member for DCMS. Nicky was awarded a CBE for services to the staging of the London 2012 Games. She is a keen horse rider and an athletics fan.

The role is remunerated at £218 per day and this appointment is made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Nicola Roche has declared no personal political activity.

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# [News story: New Countryside Stewardship Offers open for applications](#)

The Countryside Stewardship scheme has opened for farmers and land managers to request 2018 application packs today (15 January).

[Four simpler, and quicker to apply for, offers](#) are being introduced this year to complement the existing Higher Tier and Mid Tier offers and open up the scheme to even more farmers and land managers. Unlike existing offers, all landowners who make a valid application for any of the four new packages will be guaranteed funding through the scheme.

This application window is an opportunity for farmers new to Countryside Stewardship (CS), or those coming out of previous stewardship agreements, to sign up for an agreement that will be guaranteed for its lifetime, to protect wildlife, boost biodiversity and deliver environmental benefits for their local communities.

Earlier this month, Environment Secretary Michael Gove outlined government plans to replace existing farm subsidies outside the EU with a new system of public money for public goods. Ahead of this, the new CS offers are an opportunity for even more farmers to establish positive environmental practices on their land and prepare for the future.

The RPA and Natural England have been tasked with simplifying the scheme, to save farmers time and cut down on paperwork. As part of this, farmers applying for the new CS Offers who meet the eligibility requirements will be able to get an agreement to deliver as few as 3 options, or as many as 7 up to 14, depending on the offer applied for. The new CS Offers are a chance for those who've been put off the scheme in the past to look again at what's on offer and what they might be able to achieve on their land.

The government has made clear its intention to go on supporting farmers for many years to come to deliver public goods, in terms of producing high quality food, boosting biodiversity and making our countryside a safe haven for our iconic wildlife.

Farming Minister George Eustice said:

We've seen farmland birds recover in numbers and biodiversity boosted on farms signed up to Countryside Stewardship agreements, however we have listened to those who said the schemes had become too complicated. The new Countryside Stewardship offers available this year are much simpler to apply for and cover a full range of different farm types, so farmers can deliver environmental benefits wherever and whatever they farm.

My message to farmers who've been put off Countryside Stewardship in the last few rounds is to take another look and see what's on offer this year. We've listened to farmers and we've simplified the offering to create a universal scheme to appeal to farmers new to stewardship and those coming out of ELS so they can continue the good work on their farms.

Farmers and land managers have until 31 May to request a paper application pack. Farmers intending to apply online this year will be able to create their Online Arable Offer application pack from 20 February. See further details of the new [Offers for Wildlife](#).

Applicants can request more information on all the Offers available from Natural England Enquiries Team by telephone: 0208 026 1089; email: [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk); or writing to:

Enquiries, Natural England, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP

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## **[News story: Carillion declares insolvency: information for employees, creditors and suppliers](#)**

On 15 January 2018, a winding up order was made against Carillion Plc and the court appointed the Official Receiver as the liquidator. The companies involved in the liquidation are:

- Carillion Plc, company number 03782379
- Carillion Construction Ltd, company number 00594581
- Carillion Services Ltd, company number 02684154
- Planned Maintenance Engineering Ltd, company number 00737307
- Carillion Integrated Services Ltd, company number 03679838
- Carillion Services 2006 Ltd, company number 03011791

To ensure continuity of public services, the companies will employ workers on the same terms and conditions as before:

- employees should continue to turn up for work and will be paid as normal
- any employee worried about their pension situation can ring The Pension Advisory Service (TPAS) on 0300 123 1047 for free and impartial guidance
- The Pension Advisory Service (TPAS) has also set up a special helpline number for members of these pension schemes: 020 7630 2715. Those already receiving their pensions will continue to receive payment
- a [dedicated website](#) has been set up to provide information for anyone affected – see [www.pwc.co.uk/carillion](http://www.pwc.co.uk/carillion) and a dedicated helpline – 0800

## Information for employees

### I work for Carillion – what should I do?

You should continue to turn up for work as usual and you will be paid. Please visit [www.pwc.co.uk/carillion](http://www.pwc.co.uk/carillion) for more information.

### What about my pension?

Anyone worried about their pension situation can ring The Pension Advisory Service (TPAS) on 0300 123 1047 for free and impartial guidance. TPAS has also set up a special helpline number for members of these pension schemes: 020 7630 2715. Those already receiving their pensions will continue to receive payment.

### I'm worried about my job

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

### Getting help with your application for redundancy payments

If you worked directly for the liquidated companies under [an employment contract](#), and your employment ceases then you will be entitled to [redundancy and other related payments](#) from the Insolvency Service.

[Self-employed contractors](#) and agency workers who provide services to the companies are not eligible to apply for redundancy payments.

If you were an employee of the liquidated companies and your employment ceases you will receive from the Special Managers a case reference number (e.g CN12345678). Once you have this information you can [apply online](#).

### Further information

If you have any further questions, you can also contact the dedicated helpline: 0800 063 9282.

## Information for suppliers

Customers, suppliers and sub-contractors should call their usual operational points of contact in the Group and visit the website [www.pwc.co.uk/carillion](http://www.pwc.co.uk/carillion).

## Information for creditors

You will need to register [as a creditor](#) in the liquidation if:

- you haven't been paid for goods or services you've supplied to the Carillion companies in liquidation

- you have paid these companies for goods or services that you haven't received

Self-employed contractors and agency workers who provided services to Carillion are not entitled to redundancy payments and should speak to your usual point of contact in the companies.

### **What happened?**

Carillion Plc entered into insolvency on 15 January 2018 along with a number of subsidiary companies in the group. All companies will continue to operate, providing continuity of public services, until further notice.

The Official Receiver has been appointed by the Court as liquidator of Carillion Plc and is now responsible for the day-to-day control and management of the liquidated companies in the group. Partners at PwC have been appointed as Special Managers to assist.

### **What contracts did Carillion hold?**

Government contracts with Carillion include services for hospitals, schools, prisons and transport. Carillion delivered around 450 contracts with government, representing 38% of Carillion's 2016 reported revenue. Key central government contracts are held with Department for Education, Department for Health and Social Care, Ministry of Justice and Department for Transport. These are not the cause of the company's present financial difficulties.

### **Further information**

If you have any further questions, you can contact the dedicated helpline on 0800 063 9282.