



## Financial Policy Committee

The Financial Policy Committee (FPC) has the power to make sure emerging risks and vulnerabilities across the financial system as a whole are identified, monitored and effectively addressed.

A consultation document was published in 2012 by the HM Treasury about the macro-prudential tools that the FPC should be given and have published

legislation setting out these tools. These tools give the FPC the power to direct the Prudential Regulation Authority to increase the capital that UK banks are required to hold in certain circumstances.

#### Junior Doctors

Negotiations between the British Medical Association (BMA) and NHS Employers for new consultants and junior doctors' contracts began in October 2013, the first time contract negotiations had taken place for 13 years. After such a long time, plenty was needed to be discussed.

The new proposals for the contract will have effect on how much junior doctors get paid, and their decisions surrounding which specialties they choose to train in. It also has an impact on whether they switch specialty later on in their careers and if they decide to take time out to pursue an academic qualification such as a PhD or to have children.

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# Jeremy Hunt announces Conservative government will impose junior doctors contract



## **Armed Forces**

The armed forces covenant recognises that the government and the nation have an obligation to the armed forces community and it establishes how they should expect to be treated. The policy paper was published in May 2011 along with 'The armed forces covenant: today and tomorrow' which detailed the steps being taken to suport the armed forces community.

The armed forces covenant itself is not a legal document but its key principles have been enshrined in law in the Armed Forces Act 2011. The legislation obliges the Defence Secretary to report annually on progress made by the government in honouring the covenant.

### Actions taken so far

Some of the actions that the Ministry of Defence have taken so far inclde:

- · 3 tranches of the covenant LIBOR fund
- making £6.5 million of funding available to guarantee that all serving personnel or vetrans injured in Iraq or Afghanistan will be able to upgrade to the latest prothsetics technology
- twice doubling council tax relief
- introducing a Service Pupil Premium
- setting up an additional fund of £3 million per year (it was raised to £6 million per year from 2014-2015) to support state schools cater for significant numbers of children of service personnel
- developing shadow postcodes for British Forces Post Office addresses so that service personnel can access online goods and services