

**Veterans  
rights**

**£10m  
support**

**Cabinet  
voice**



**Sarah  
Payne**  
for Birkenhead  
and Bebington

26 June 2024

Dear Veteran,

**Armed Forces Week is a chance for everyone to show our support for you – our veterans, the men and women in our Armed Forces, their families and cadets.**

According to the recent Census, you are one of 3,385 veterans living in Birkenhead, with parts of Claughton and Oxtun having the highest proportion in the town.

As well as increasing the budget for our defence and security for the future, I am determined we also support those who have served in the past.

As you may know, Conservatives created the United Kingdom's first Office for Veterans Affairs, run by a dedicated Minister who attends Cabinet, speaking up for veterans.

If re-elected, we will maintain the budget of the Office for Veterans Affairs at £10 million. No ifs, no buts, no waffle.

We will also pass the UK's first ever Veterans' Bill to enshrine **veterans' rights** in law. Ensuring qualifications from Service are correctly recognised in civilian life, creating a legal duty on government to look after our Veterans and widening the scope of the Armed Forces Covenant in law to include the UK Government and devolved administrations.

I know the cost of living is a big issue for many veterans, as well as gaining employment afterwards. So, we will retain the National Insurance holiday for those who **employ veterans**.

We will also bring forward measures so that War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme awards are not counted as income for the purpose of benefits and pensions.

Finally, we will also cut the cost of the Veterans Railcard so that it costs the same as the HM Forces Railcard.

Thank you for what you did to help keep our country safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Payne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**Sarah Payne**  
Conservative Candidate  
Birkenhead and Bebington  
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