



Media Release 17/April/2017

## **BFPS covers e-bluey withdrawal from service**

The e-bluey entered service on the 29 June 1999 and was withdrawn from use on the 31 March 2017. At its operational peak the e-bluey secure website dealt with over 100,000 items of mail per month whilst the e-bluey service itself accounted for over 80% of the letters sent between British Service personnel and their family and friends whilst on operations.

To mark this historic occasion BFPS has for sale a numbered limited edition batch of 100 e-blueys sent on the last day of operation. The e-blueys each bear a BFPO 707 special handstamp and include an information sheet telling the story of the development and demise of the e-bluey system.

These last e-blueys will make a great souvenir of the service that provided British Service personnel a secure method of communication between them and their families.

They may be ordered from the BFPS online shop ([www.bfps.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfps.org.uk/shop)), priced at just £12.50 (UK/BFPO p&p free).

You can also order the covers by post by sending a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to BFPS The Old Post Office Links Place Elie Fife KY9 1AX.

These e-blueys are unique and are available whilst stocks last. Due to the anticipated popularity of this offer, all orders are limited to two per customer. All net profits will be donated to Service charities.

Ends

Images of the e-bluey and its accompanying information sheet are attached.

## About BFPS

The British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS) fundraises for Service charities through philately and is a not-for-profit organisation run by a small team of volunteers, all of whom are Veterans. BFPS was specially set-up to ensure that the Forces Philatelic Bureau survives and thrives. BFPS is a registered Community Interest Company (CIC) working closely with the British Forces Post Office (BFPO).

The BFPO has had responsibility for all aspects of military mail, including philatelic matters, since its formation in 1882. More recently, as part of a Strategic Defence and Security Review, BFPO was reorganised and as a result of this the Forces Philatelic Bureau was transferred to BFPS, which was specially set up, as the sole authorised body empowered to deal with all matters concerning the Forces Philatelic Bureau. BFPS is officially licensed by the UK MOD.

BFPS is managed by two retired career Army officers, each of whom has had extensive experience working within the BFPO in general and the Forces Philatelic Bureau in particular. The third member of the management team is an ex Royal Engineer Warrant Officer who has a passion for Forces philately. All are volunteers and are dedicated to keeping the Forces Philatelic Bureau alive and are working hard to ensure the future of this unique area of BFPO operations is secure and flourishes.

### Links:

[British Forces Post Office](#)

[www.royalmail.com/personal/stamps-collectibles-gifts](http://www.royalmail.com/personal/stamps-collectibles-gifts)

[www.postalmuseum.org](http://www.postalmuseum.org)

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BFPS fundraises for Service charities through philately and is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) limited by guarantee. Registered No 417647.

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