

Homeless ex-armed forces advice

If you're leaving the armed services, or you are a former member, you may be entitled to extra help if you become homeless.

Key advice

- Get help with housing or apply as homeless before you're discharged

Homelessness rights for ex-forces

You may qualify for help from the Council if you are a former member of the armed forces and are homeless or threatened with homelessness. In addition you will have to prove to the Council that you are eligible for housing assistance, have a priority need and did not make yourself intentionally homeless.

Subject to you satisfying the above criteria the Council may help you with both emergency and longer-term accommodation if it is accepted that you are homeless and in priority need with regard to needing accommodation.

The Council must consider if it can help you using both general rules that apply to everyone and additional rules that apply to people who were in the forces.

Additional rules for the armed forces

You may be considered to be in priority need if we determine that you are vulnerable as a result of being a former member of the armed forces.

When deciding this, we may consider:

- how long you were in the forces and what role you had
- if you spent any time in a military hospital
- if you were released from service on medical grounds (and have a Medical History Release Form)
- if you have had accommodation since leaving service and if you have been able to obtain or maintain accommodation since you left
- how long it has been since you left service
- if you have been injured during your service

To help support your case, you may need to provide medical evidence from the MOD, including a Medical History Release Form (if you were given one).

You don't need to have a local connection to apply to go on [Home Options housing register](https://www.home-options.org/choice/content.aspx?pageid=299) (insert hyperlink <https://www.home-options.org/choice/content.aspx?pageid=299>) if you are serving in the armed forces or left in the last 5 years.

Applying as homeless before discharge from the forces

If you think you will be homeless after discharge from the services it is important for you to seek homelessness assistance. The Council will not wait until you are made homeless before we help you. Upon the production of a letter of discharge or some

other evidence that confirms the date of your discharge from the Forces, we will accept that from the date of discharge you will become homeless. In the event that you have not sought any housing assistance from this council prior to your discharge from the Forces you may need to stay in your accommodation as long as possible and wait for Defence Estates to evict you.

Defence Estates have to give you a **Notice to Vacate** before they can take you to court in order that they can obtain a possession order. You can use any Notice to Vacate and any possession order that is obtained against you as evidence in support of your homelessness application.

Ex-forces and single, homeless and on the streets

There is a range of services for people who find themselves homeless and on the streets, for example:

- the [Royal British Legion](http://www.support.britishlegion.org.uk) (*insert hyperlink www.support.britishlegion.org.uk*) might be able to help with a rent deposit contact
- [SSAFA](http://www.ssafa.org.uk) (*insert hyperlink www.ssafa.org.uk*) provide housing advice to people currently serving in the forces and ex services personnel and their families. Tel: 0800 731 4880

Search the [Homeless England directory](https://www.homeless.org.uk/search-homelessness-services) (*insert hyperlink <https://www.homeless.org.uk/search-homelessness-services>*) to find hostels, emergency and longer term accommodation, day centres and services near you.

Further housing support and advice by Veterans' Housing Advice

Veterans' Housing Advice is a new service which provides clear pathways for ex-Service personnel in housing need throughout the United Kingdom to move into permanent homes. It is provided in partnership with The Royal British Legion, Shelter and Connect Assist, its main aim is to make accessing the services of charities easier through a telephone helpline open seven days a week from 8am-8pm.

It can, for example, provide a housing intervention that negates the need to consider a rent bond or rent deposit.

There is now a Veterans Housing Advice (VHA) web site www.veteranshousingadvice.org.uk and the direct number to an advisor is 0808 801 0880, that can also be accessed via the Veterans' Gateway on 0808 802 1212 that is available 24/7.

Services provided by members of the CHC include:

- Supported Accommodation - providing temporary accommodation for veterans, with support.
- Long Term Housing - providing settled accommodation for veterans, with or without support.
- General Needs - Unsupported housing for members of the ex-Service community unable to buy or rent on the open market. Tenants will usually be self-sufficient, but may need to avail themselves of some of the floating

support listed. Some adapted properties may be available or adaptations arranged as necessary.

- Floating Support - Services delivered by visiting workers to people in their own homes to help people maintain their settled accommodation.
- Outreach Services - Covering work with rough sleepers or people in temporary accommodation to help them access more settled accommodation and any support needs.
- Day Centres - The provision of activities and support to homeless and vulnerably housed people. (Also called by some providers 'drop-in' facilities)

Homeless after dishonourable discharge

The Council may not have a duty to help you if you are homeless after being discharged on disciplinary grounds from the UK armed forces.

Joining the Housing Register

The following categories of applicants will be afforded a priority status for accommodation on the Home Options Housing Register if they have left the Armed Forces within the last 5 years:

- Those discharged from the Armed Forces as a result of sustaining a serious injury, illness, medical condition, or disability during service which is attributable (wholly or partly) to the person's service
- Those former serving members of the Reserve Forces who need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition or disability sustained as a result of their service
- Those applicants who are in housing need and have been discharged from the Armed Forces such as former armed forces personnel in housing need
- Those bereaved spouses or civil partners of those serving in the regular forces where the bereaved spouse or civil partner has recently ceased to reside, or will cease to be entitled, to reside in Ministry of Defence accommodation
- Those applying following the death of their service spouse or civil partner, where the death was wholly or partly attributable to their service

Contact us

If you prefer to speak to a housing advice officer regarding your situation please complete [Contact our housing advice team](#) (INSERT THE NEW HOMELESS CONTACT FORM LINK HERE- CHECK WITH PHIL CAMPBELL THAT RIGHT LIVE LINK IS USED)