

Factsheet 7

I am a veteran of the British Armed Forces

I am leaving the forces and need help to secure housing

If you are leaving the Armed Forces you have the right to help with finding somewhere to live. You can get help through the **Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO)**. They provide information and advice for you and your dependants, especially if you are about to return to civilian life. If you are a veteran currently living in Armed Forces housing, they can help you move out and find a civilian home.

Advice line: 07814612120

Email: RC-Pers-JSHAO-0Mailbox@mod.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/government/collections/joint-service-housing-advice-office-jshao

You can stay in forces accommodation beyond the date in the certificate if you have nowhere else to go. The MOD will have to issue a 93-day Notice to Vacate

Veterans' Housing Advice is a national telephone helpline, which is open 7 days a week, from 8am to 8pm, on **0808 801 0880**. The helpline makes it easier for forces veterans to get the help of specialist organizations. They can help you with:

- Finding temporary accommodation with support;
- Finding settled accommodation, with or without support;
- Targeted help if you are unable to buy or rent property on the open market;
- Floating support' – to help you keep settled accommodation that you might otherwise be at risk of losing your home.

I am a veteran and I need help to secure housing

If you are a veteran, you can get advice to find somewhere to live from your local council. We can give you free advice on housing options, and advice if you are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Single Persons Accommodation Centre for the Ex Services (SPACES)

Helping single ex service personnel who contact within 6 months of leaving the armed forces find temporary or permanent housing throughout the UK. If the person has left more than 6 months prior they can offer housing information and advice

Telephone: 01748 833797 / 872940 / 830191

Email: spaces@echg.org.uk

Website: www.riverside.org.uk

Veterans Aid

Veterans Aid provides immediate, practical support for UK veterans in crisis regardless of age, ethnicity, rank, gender or length of Service

Helpline: 0800 012 68 67

Email: info@veterans-aid.net

Website: www.veterans-aid.net

Veterans Gateway can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Telephone: 0808 8021212

Website: www.veteransgateway.org.uk

Haig Housing

own over 1,500 properties across 50 locations in the UK. They provide support for ex-Service personnel transitioning into civilian life or who just need a helping hand. They have an online application. Paper copies can be submitted, see website for more details.



Telephone: 020 8685 5 777

Website: www.haighousing.org.uk

Royal British Legion (RBL)

Provides accommodation options and in Kent we have the RBL village in Aylesford, near Maidstone.

Helpline: 0808 802 8080 01622 795900

Email: enquiries@rbl.co.uk

I am a disabled veteran and need help to secure housing

Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation

Provides housing and support to vulnerable and disabled veterans as well as their dependents, living in England. They provide a home for life if you need it, or help to find training and work to get back to independent living.

Telephone: 0207 385 2110

Email: info@stoll.org.uk

Website: www.stoll.org.uk

Royal British Legion

Can provide care homes for elderly and disabled veterans

Legionline: 0808 802 8080

Website: www.britishlegion.org.uk

I need some extra support

SSAFA

Offer a range of free, tailored services based around your and your family's needs for as long as you need it, and regardless of time served in armed forces.

Call 0800 260 6767 or email SouthEast.Region@ssafa.org.uk

Cobseo (The Housing Cluster of the Confederation of Service charities)
Details the main providers of general needs and supported housing for the ex Service community in its Directory of Dedicated Services for Veterans

Website – cobseo.org.uk

I am a veteran and I am homeless

Contact your Council if you are homeless or due to leave the forces within the next 56 days. Locally you can do this by accessing the Councils website to complete an online self-assessment, which will give you some basic advice and information.

If you are assessed as needing more help you will be asked to complete a more detailed assessment. Once the second assessment is complete you will be contacted to arrange/complete a telephone assessment.

You will be given advice and support about other housing options and how to access them, including the private rented sector, you may also be able to access assistance with rent in advance and or a deposit guarantee payment, however it should be noted that financial assistance is at the discretion of the local authority.

Looking for affordable private rented accommodation

This is likely to be your fastest solution to securing somewhere to live in the local area. Finances are often the biggest barrier so make sure you have followed the advice above and if you are still struggling you might need to look in more affordable areas of the country.

Applying to the Council's Housing List

If you are not already registered on your local Council's Housing List you should apply as soon as possible. If your local Council is in Kent you can apply online through the Kent Homechoice website at www.kenthomechoice.org.uk. You generally have to have a local connection to the area you are applying to for social housing and you will be asked to provide evidence in connection with your application, which will include proof of identification and local connection to the area at the very least. If you are not on the housing list you cannot be considered for council housing or housing association properties.

For ore information on looking for private rented accommodation or social housing please see the factsheet 'Housing Advice in the Folkestone and Hythe District'.

Affordable Home Ownership

Regular armed forces personnel can benefit from a £200-million scheme to help them get on the property ladder. The Forces Help to Buy scheme enables servicemen and servicewomen to borrow up to 50% of their salary, interest free, to buy their first home or move to another property on assignment or as their family's needs change. This scheme allows service personnel to borrow up to 50% of their annual salary, to a maximum of £25,000. This can be used towards a deposit and other costs such as solicitor's and estate agent's fees.

Guidance - www.gov.uk/guidance/forces-help-to-buy