



Ministry
of Defence

The New Accommodation Offer

Widening the accommodation offer for a modern Defence





The New Accommodation Offer

Starting from 11 March 2024, the MOD will begin introducing a New Accommodation Offer for our Armed Forces. Some of the changes will happen immediately whilst others may only affect you when you are assigned to a new role or at the end of the three-year transition period.

The planned changes are intended to modernise accommodation entitlements, improve the standard of Single Living Accommodation, update the Overseas Accommodation Offer, increase support to homeowners and, overall, give you more of a say on how you choose to live.



Announcement of change

On 19 September 2023, Minister of Defence People Families Dr Andrew Murrison launched the New Accommodation Offer and Widened Accommodation Entitlement Limited Locations at RAF Wittering.



**Chief of Defence People,
Vice Admiral Phil Hally CB MBE, said:**

“The Haythornthwaite review highlighted how critical a flexible and supportive accommodation offer is to our Service personnel and their families. Our Defence Accommodation Strategy is leading the way to address the changing requirements of our personnel, with the introduction of the New Accommodation Offer allowing us to meet these needs.”



**Head of Armed Forces Accommodation Policy,
Jo Barker, said:**

“After an enormous amount of collaborative effort between policy makers, the Armed Forces, individual Service personnel and their families, the New Accommodation Offer will bring new accommodation options, whether you are single, married, in a Long Term Relationship or in civil partnerships.”



When will you see the changes to the accommodation offer...

Everyone who lives in Service accommodation will eventually be covered by the New Accommodation Offer. Most of the changes to the offer, including widened entitlements to family accommodation, support to first-time buyers and the dual accommodation expense, will be available from 11 March 2024.

However, personnel will not be expected to move from their current family accommodation unless they are assigned or have a change in family circumstances that prompts a move of home. Until that happens, personnel already in family accommodation will stay where they are under the previous policy (or FAM pilot policy if holding pilot preserved rights).

Many of those who currently receive an entitlement based on rank will continue to be able to occupy a property with the same number of bedrooms under the New Accommodation Offer. However, where personnel do experience a reduction in their entitlement, they will be entitled to transitional protection until three years after the launch of the new offer.



The New Accommodation Offer elements...



Needs Based Allocation



Transitional Protection



Established Long Term Relationship



Support for parents



Private Rental Sector



Dual Accommodation Expense



Increased support to buy a home



Defence Minimum Standard



Improving the overseas accommodation offer



Accommodation Support Cell



Needs Based Allocation



Through the New Accommodation Offer, accommodation entitlements will be simplified. Service personnel of all ranks will receive an entitlement to accommodation based on their need, which for most will be linked to their immediate family.

There will also be more flexibility, as personnel will be able to request a home from available Service Families Accommodation (SFA) properties of any type at entitlement, or one bedroom above or below entitlement. They can also request SFA up to 50 miles from their assigned location if they have personal reasons for wanting to live further away.



Transitional Protection



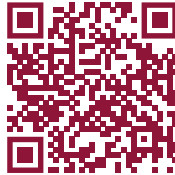
The increased flexibility to request a home above entitlement means that many personnel who previously had a rank-based entitlement will still be able to request their previous entitlement, subject to availability. If they cannot, they will be offered 'transitional protection' based on the same number of bedrooms as their previous rank-based entitlement until the end of the three-year transition period.



Established Long Term Relationship



Service personnel who have registered their relationship as an Established Long Term Relationship will be entitled to accommodation on the same basis as those who are married or in a civil partnership.



Support for parents



Single Service personnel without primary parental responsibility will be entitled to Service Families Accommodation where the non-resident child resides with them for over 80 nights annually.

To establish this, they must complete the “Application for Recognition of Child Visitation for Over 80 Nights per Calendar Year” form which can be found in the Annex section of JSP 464.



Private Rental Sector



Widening entitlement for family accommodation means we will reduce the number of empty Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties the MOD holds, but demand for family accommodation is likely to exceed the available SFA at some locations.

Service personnel will be able to express a preference for SFA or Private Rental Sector (PRS) on their e1132 application, and this will be taken into account during the allocation process. If you are placed into the PRS route, you will be given guidance and various payments to cover the costs associated with renting and a contribution towards your monthly rent, adjusted for local housing costs.



Dual Accommodation Expense



If you live in Single Living Accommodation (SLA) registered as your Resident at Work Address for some or all of the working week but you maintain and use a home, registered as your Selected place of Residence elsewhere, you may be eligible to claim back the cost of your SLA up to a monthly cap of £125. This is not based on any relationship status or age, only that you are maintaining a home elsewhere.



Increased support to buy a home



Support to homebuyers through the Forces Help to Buy scheme was made a permanent part of our accommodation policy from 1 January 2023.

Under the New Accommodation Offer, we will offer further support for Service personnel buying a first home near their duty station through refunding up to £1,500 of their legal expenses.

Forces Help
to Buy



Refund of
Legal Expenses



Defence Minimum Standard



A minimum standard for Single Living Accommodation (SLA) has been agreed and the Services have assessed the entire UK SLA estate to understand where rooms are currently failing to meet this. This is now informing where investment is needed to bring rooms up to the required level.



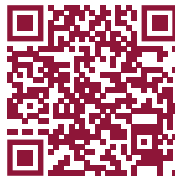
Improving the overseas accommodation offer



Whilst the New Accommodation Offer will begin its roll out in the UK, the MOD is already looking at how to replicate as much of this as possible overseas. This will start with recognising long-term relationships at a small number of overseas locations to inform a wider overseas rollout.

From 22 January 2024 to 31 March 2025 HQ British Forces Cyprus (BFC) and The Falkland Islands will pilot increased accommodation entitlements for Service personnel in Established Long Term Relationships (LTR(E)).

The pilot forms part of Defence's outputs from the recent Defence Command Paper refresh and Haythornthwaite Review which aims to improve the offer to current and future serving personnel, as well aiding the medium to long term development plans for overseas policy.



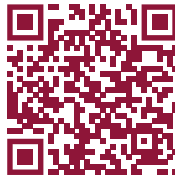
Accommodation Support Cell



The Accommodation Support Cell (ASC) is a dedicated team of Civil Servants specialising in answering all your questions on how the New Accommodation Offer will apply to you.

Contact the ASC team via email:

People-Accom-ASC@mod.gov.uk



Contact Page

Visit our web pages to learn about upcoming changes to your accommodation policy, watch videos, connect with the Accommodation Support Cell and find answers to your questions on our FAQs:

Defence Accommodation Policy

GOV.UK

Defence Connect Page:

Defence Accommodation Policy

Contact the Accommodation Support Cell via email at:

People-Accom-ASC@mod.gov.uk

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Outreach

If you would like more information on the New Accommodation Offer, we have a team available to visit sites in person, or to present virtual briefs to Chains of Command, Service personnel, families and partners at a time or place to suit your needs.

For more information on our Outreach project email:

People-Accom-Comms@mod.gov.uk

Join our weekly MS Teams sessions online via a laptop, tablet or telephone.

For all our upcoming sessions and log in details scan below:



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