

Armed Forces Homelessness Advice

What does the Law say?

In June 2012 the Government revised the statutory guidance on housing allocations in England – this guidance now emphasises the flexibilities authorities have to prioritise applications from ex-service personnel.

The Housing Act 1996 (Additional Preference for Former Armed Forces Personnel) (England) Regulations 2012, which came into force on 30 November 2012, provide that ‘additional preference’ must be given to applications from certain serving and ex-members of the armed forces (and reserve forces) who come within the reasonable preference categories defined in sub-section 166A(3) of the Housing Act 1996 (listed above) and who have urgent housing need.

Can Tamworth Borough Council help?

You may qualify for help from Tamworth Borough Council if you are a former member of the armed forces and are homeless or threatened with homelessness; in addition you will need to prove to the Council that you are eligible for assistance.

Subject to you satisfying the above criteria Tamworth Borough Council could help you with both emergency and longer term accommodation if it is accepted that you are homeless and in need of accommodation.

Tamworth Borough Council will consider if it can help you using both general rules that apply to everyone and special rules that apply to people who were in the forces.

Check out Tamworth Borough Councils Housing Allocations Scheme for further details:

https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/housing_docs/Allocations_Policy_June2014.pdf

What information do I need?

The Ministry of Defence gives you a Certificate of Cessation of Entitlement 6 months before you leave the forces. It contains the date that you stop being entitled to forces accommodation.

Apply to the council for help with housing when you receive the certificate if you think you might be homeless on discharge.

The Council will treat you as 'threatened with homelessness' 56 days before the certificate expires and look into your situation. As part of the support offered to you we will complete a Personalised Housing Plan with you and agree actions for both you and the Council to undertake.

Support Services Contact

Name of Organisation	Who they can help	Contact details
Staffordshire Armed Forces Covenant	The Staffordshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership is working with the armed forces to help and support current and former service personnel and their families in the local area.	Tel: 01785 276537 Website: https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/community/armed-forces/Armed-Forces-Community-Covenant-.aspx
Veterans gateway	A new 24 hour Gateway service will help veterans access the support they need quickly and easily as they transition from military to civilian life.	Telephone: 0808 802 1212 Text: 81212 Website: www.veteransgateway.org.uk
The Royal British Legion	The Royal British Legion can provide support to ex-Service people and their dependents who are suffering financially, including those who need urgent assistance to get through a temporary crisis, such as homelessness.	Tel: 0808 802 8080 Website: www.support.britishlegion.org.uk
SSAFA	SSAFA provide housing advice to people currently servicing in the Forces and ex-services personal and their families.	Tel: 0800 731 4880 Website: www.ssafa.org.uk
Citizens Advice Bureau	A wide variety of advice for ex – service personal including housing advice and financial assistance.	Tel: 03444 111 444 Website: https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/

Joint Service Housing Advice Office

The **Joint Service Housing Advice Office** (JSHAO) provides housing information and advice to service personnel and their families to assist them in their transition to civilian life. JSHAO also co-ordinate the MOD Referral Scheme to assist eligible service leavers to apply for social housing.

You may have attended one of their Civilian Housing Briefings before leaving the military but if not you can find information on civilian housing schemes, service temporary and transit accommodation and homelessness by searching 'civilian housing advice' on their website at www.gov.uk or you can call their advice line on **01252 787574**.



Contact us -The Housing Solutions team are based at Tamworth Borough Council, they are available to give full advice on your housing needs and explain what options are available to you should you find yourself Homeless or threatened with homelessness.

**Contact: Email: Housingsolutions@tamworth.gov.uk
Tel: 01827 709709**

Office opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 08:45am – 17:10pm
Wednesday 10:00am – 17:10pm
Friday 08:45am – 17:05pm

If you are homeless and the council offices are closed, then you can contact the homelessness out of hours service on 01827 709709 and choose option 1. You should only use this service if you have nowhere to stay immediately.

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