

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS)

A few words, more to follow nearer the time.

This scheme comes into force on the 6th April 2005. It will be available to Regular and Reservists serving on or after 6th April 2005. It will be administered by the Veterans Agency. Members of Royal Fleet Auxiliary are exempt from scheme.

Current war pensioners will remain on the present war pension scheme (WPS).

- # If an ex-service person did not serve after 5th April 2005.....WPS
- # If a widow/widower of ex-service person who did not serve after 5th April 2005WPS
- # If death occurs after 6th April 2005 but “cause of death” prior to this date WPS
- # If service related death after 6th April and cause of death after 6th April 2005 AFCS
- # If injury/illness occurs after 6th April 2005 AFCS

Payments/awards will be made according to 15 tariffs. Ranging from circa £1000 to £275,000. Awards can comprise a lump sum and weekly payment to reflect loss of earning capacity. Payments are based upon current salary.

Widow/Widowers/Partners can retain award if they remarry or cohabit.

Time limits for claiming.

5 years from incident or injury, 5 years from when first sought medical advice, 5 years from end of service. Which ever is earlier. Widows/dependants, 1 year after death.

Exceptions to time limits.

Late onset illnesses. Inability to claim due to permanent incapacity throughout the claiming period.

Note associated allowances will not be paid, for example ALSO, War Pensions Mobility Supplement or Constant Attendance Allowances. Such allowances must be claimed via “civvy” route DWP.

All Veterans Agency decisions are appealable

Advice to our serving members Ensure any injury or illness is recorded in your medical documents.

You may claim under i-his scheme while serving, you also have the right to appeal while serving.

You will receive literature informing you of the scheme. It will also be published in a DCI. All C/os will be fully aware of the scheme.

For those members shortly to be released from service, ensure all disabilities, especially after 6th April 2005, are noted at release medical and subsequently claimed as quickly as possible.

The RBL and GVA will naturally do all that they can to assist with either scheme.

War Pension Update

Allowance of Lowered Standard of Occupation / SAPs.

This allowance is payable to war pensioners assessed at 40% and above. This allowance recognizes that the pensioners earning capacity is reduced because of their war pensionable disabilities.

A Service Attributable Pension can also be claimed if it can be proven that the pensioner can no longer work due to his war pensionable conditions.

Please be aware if you are in receipt of a Service Attributable Pension ALSO payments can be abated. If however the SAPs is less than the ALSO payment awarded top ups may be paid.

Article 55 of the Service Pensions Order applies.