

## Compensation for Veterans

Are you eligible for compensation from your time with the armed forces? It's quite possible, and worth investigating.

An increasing number of private companies are cropping up who will offer to investigate this on your behalf on a no-win, no-fee basis, but if you prefer to look into it yourself there no shortage of places to research.

### Veterans UK

Veterans UK administers the armed forces pension schemes and compensation payments for those injured or bereaved through service. Veterans UK is part of the Ministry of Defence.

Veterans UK is responsible for:

- [Armed Forces Compensation Scheme \(AFCS\)](#) – You can claim under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) for an illness or injury that was caused as a result of service on or after 6 April 2005. You do not need to have left the armed forces before claiming.
- [War Disablement Pension](#) – Assessment, award, payment and maintenance of war pensions, related allowances and other payments for those disabled or bereaved through service before 5 April 2005.
- [Armed Forces Pensions](#) – Assessment, award, payment and maintenance of all pensions relating to service in the armed forces. This includes the armed forces pension schemes and reserve forces pension scheme.
- [Veterans Welfare Service \(VWS\)](#) – Provides support to all veterans, their families and dependants. The **Veterans Welfare Service** focuses on providing assistance where a change in circumstances may have resulted in a welfare need. One to one advice is provided by phone or home visit when needed.

Email: [veterans-uk@mod.uk](mailto:veterans-uk@mod.uk) Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk>

Freephone (UK only): **0808 1914 2 18** Telephone (overseas): **+44 1253 866 043**  
**8:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday\*\*\***

\*\*\*When the helpline is closed, callers will be given the option to be routed to 'Combat Stress' or 'The Samaritans' 24hr helpline.

### Veterans Welfare Service (VWS)

Call the Veterans Welfare Centre: **0141 2242709** (covers NE England, Scotland, NI and ROI)

Email: [veterans-uk-vws-scot-ni@mod.uk](mailto:veterans-uk-vws-scot-ni@mod.uk)

The VWS is committed to enhancing the quality of life for veterans and beneficiaries of Veterans UK pensions and compensation schemes, and all their dependants.

It also provides support to enable the seamless transition from service to civilian life, assist bereaved families or respond to life events that present welfare needs. It achieves this by facilitating access to all appropriate services.

VWS caseworkers offer one to one professional help and guidance by telephone, or if needed, during a home visit.

Under Veterans UK, the VWS works in partnerships with the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, ex-service charities, statutory and non-statutory bodies, local community service providers and the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees [Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees](#) to deliver a quality welfare service that promotes independence, maintains dignity and provides continuous support through life.

If you are supporting a veteran and need further advice, the VWS may be able to help.

## Online Information about Armed Forces Compensation

1. [Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Claim Form](#)
2. [Armed Forces Compensation Scheme explained](#)
3. [Free help with compensation claims for injury in the armed forces](#)
4. [MOD Common Law Compensation Claims during Financial Year 2018/19](#)
5. [UK Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Annual Statistics 6 April 2005 to 31 March 2020](#)

[Veterans' Gateway](#) is the first point of contact for veterans seeking support. It's made up of a number of military charities and can put you in touch with organisations who can help further. [Contact Veteran's Gateway on 0808 802 1212](#) (24 hours a day, 365 days a year).

There is now a [Veterans' Gateway App](#) which you can use to find support organisations in your area using a smartphone or tablet.