

Date Provided: 23 July 2018

Armed Forces Covenant

Ref: FOI / 7211

Information Request and Response by Lewes District Council

What is the Local Authority Armed Forces Covenant policy?
What expenditure and activity has the Local Authority undertaken to meet your policy aims for the Armed Forces Covenant in the last 12 months?

Veterans get an extra banding in our allocations policy, as do their spouses.

<https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/resources/assets/inline/full/0/259278.pdf>

Allocations Policy:

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Applicants with over £32,000 of savings or assets do not qualify. However, any lump sum received by a member of the Armed Forces as compensation for an injury or disability on active service is disregarded.

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Armed Forces Personnel

Armed Forces Personnel do not need to meet the Local Connection criteria set out at above to qualify if they are an Applicant who:

- (a) a member of the Armed Forces and former Service personnel, where the application is made within five years of discharge or
- (b) a bereaved spouse or civil partner of members of the Armed Forces leaving Services Family Accommodation following the death of their spouse or partner or
- (c) a serving or former member of the Reserve Forces who need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition or disability sustained as a result of their service.

For this purpose “the regular forces” and “the reserve forces” have meanings given in section 374 of the Armed Forces Act 2006(b).

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Additional Priority for Armed Forces Personnel

Bids from Armed Forces Personnel in Band A or B will be given priority over bids from other applicants in their Band when they bid on a suitable home if they are an Applicant who formerly served in the regular forces as defined in section 374 of the Armed Forces Act 2006(b).

If they are in need of extra support, we signpost them to the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes etc.

There is a council tax exemption for the armed forces (which is a national exemption so not unique to our authority) if they live in accommodation owned by the MOD. (Exemption O)

<https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-exemptions/>

Has the Local Authority appointed an Armed Forces Covenant Ambassador, and if so there name and contact details?

No