



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

*Ministry of Housing, Communities
and Local Government*

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

To: Chief Executives and Chief Housing
Officers of Local Housing Authorities in
England

29 June 2020

Dear Chief Executive and Chief Housing Officer

Improving access to social housing for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families: statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local housing authorities in England

I am writing to notify you that, following consultation, new statutory guidance on the allocation of accommodation by local housing authorities was issued on 27 June 2020.

The guidance has been drafted in the light of responses to consultation on proposals which were published on 9 January 2019.

The document provides a standalone piece of statutory guidance on allocating social housing for the Armed Forces community. It brings together, updates, and builds on existing advice in the 2012 and 2013 statutory allocations guidance.

The guidance is intended to assist local authorities when considering applications for social housing by members of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families. More specifically it:

- Strongly encourages local authorities to exempt from their local connection requirements divorced or separated spouses or civil partners of Service personnel who need to move out of accommodation provided by the Ministry of Defence, and
- Sets out how local authorities can ensure that members of the Armed Forces and veterans suffering from mental ill health are given appropriate priority for social housing

The guidance also advises local authorities on how they can identify applications from members of the Armed Forces community, and better understand their specific needs through targeted training, to ensure that they are considered appropriately.

The guidance is published on the GOV.UK website at:

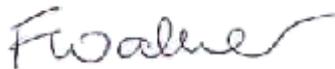
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-access-to-social-housing-for-members-of-the-armed-forces>

A summary of the responses to the consultation is available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895300/Social_housing_Armed_Forces_summary_of_responses.pdf

If you have any queries about the guidance, do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail to: frances.walker@communities.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Walker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ms Frances Walker
Social Housing Division