

Welcome to Scotland

A guide for Service personnel
and their families in Scotland
(updated 2021)



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Foreword



On behalf of the Scottish Government, it is my pleasure to welcome you and your family to Scotland.

The Scottish Government is firmly committed to supporting our Armed Forces Community. We have a long military tradition here in Scotland and hold our Armed Forces and their families in high esteem.

We are highly supportive of the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant and the commitment of organisations across Scotland to build enhanced support for the Armed Forces community and foster better integration between the community and the Armed Forces.

This booklet has been designed to help you with what you need to know about your move. We are a close-knit society and are committed to ensuring that members of the Armed Forces and their family members are fully supported when accessing our services. We have a proud track record of working in close partnership with local authorities, the wider public sector and charities to help us ensure you are able to access the best possible care and support. Ultimately, we hope that you will consider Scotland as your long-term home.

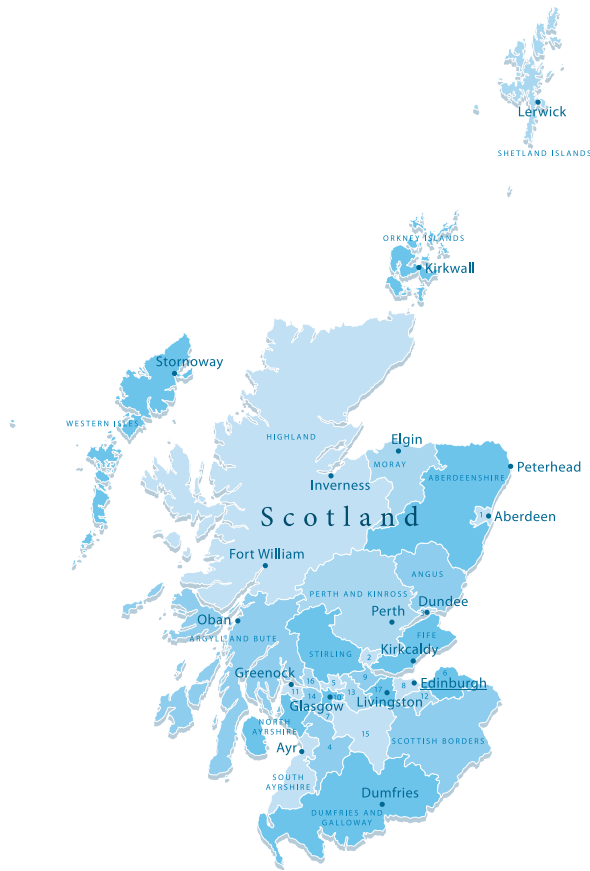
I hope you find this booklet useful and that you and your family enjoy the great benefits that our beautiful country has to offer.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Dey', written in a cursive style.

Graeme Dey MSP

Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Welcome to Scotland



Scotland is a progressive nation built on dynamism, creativity and the fabulous warmth of its people. We have a population of around 5.4 million mostly concentrated in the central belt. Our major cities include Edinburgh, the capital, with its iconic hill-top castle, and Glasgow, famed for its vibrant cultural scene.

Language

Scotland's official languages are English, Gaelic, and Scots. Around 87,000 people speak Gaelic and more than a million people speak Scots. There are six standalone Gaelic schools including in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and Gaelic is taught in over 50 other schools across Scotland. More information on Gaelic and Scots culture can be found at www.visitscotland.com/about/uniquely-scottish/gaelic/

Government

The Scottish Parliament deals with devolved issues. Devolution is a system of government which allows decisions to be made at a more local level. In the UK there are several examples of devolved government including: the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Parliament, and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The Scottish Parliament, informally referred to as "Holyrood", is a democratically elected body comprising 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs). Members are elected for five-year terms under the mixed member proportional representation system.

The Scottish Government is led by the First Minister and is responsible for implementing laws and policy in Scotland which are not explicitly reserved to the United Kingdom Government (such as defence and foreign policy). These devolved matters include health and social care, education, justice and policing, rural affairs, economic development and transport.

Local government is organised through 32 unitary authorities designated as councils which consist of councillors elected every five years by registered voters in each of the council areas. You can find the contact details for your local authority at www.cosla.gov.uk/councils

Housing

In Scotland, in addition to Service Family Accommodation, Single Living Accommodation and the Future Accommodation Model which is being piloted at HMNB Clyde¹ (all of which are provided through the Ministry of Defence), there are a number of housing options available depending on where you would like to live.

Housing Options Scotland

The Scottish Government supports Housing Options Scotland to provide its Military Matters Project. This service provides support to veterans, currently serving personnel, their families and dependants to find the right home in the right place throughout the country. For more information visit housingoptionsscotland.org.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice (JSHAO)

JSHAO is the MOD's tri-service focal point to provide service personnel and their dependants with civilian housing information for those wishing to move to civilian accommodation at any time in their career, and for those during resettlement to assist with the transition to civilian life. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/joint-service-housing-advice-office-jshao>

Buying a Home

If you wish to buy a home but cannot afford the total cost there are a number of schemes that might be able to help you.

The Forces Help to Buy Scheme enables Service personnel to borrow up to 50% of their salary (to a maximum of £25,000) to buy their first home, or to move to another property on assignment or as their families' needs change. More information can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/forces-help-to-buy

The Scottish Government operates shared equity schemes which can help you to buy a home that is for sale on the open market, or to buy a new build home from a housing association or local council. Support is also offered through the Help to Buy (Scotland) Scheme to purchase a new build property from a participating builder.

Funding for these schemes is provided by the Scottish Government, and you can find out more about them at <https://www.gov.scot/policies/homeowners/>

Shared ownership is also available in Scotland. You should be aware however that shared ownership is very different from shared equity. With shared equity you own the home outright, but with shared ownership a housing association still owns part of the home and charges you a fee to live in it. More information is available at www.mygov.scot/help-buying-home/

¹ More information about FAM can be found at [What you need to know about the Future Accommodation Model – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-future-accommodation-model)

Land and Buildings Transaction Tax

If you purchase property over a certain value in Scotland you will pay Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT). The tax is payable at different rates on each portion of the purchase price within specified tax bands, though there are some reliefs in place such as for first-time buyers.

Personnel who already own a property should also be aware of the LBTT Additional Dwelling Supplement (ADS), which is payable on the total purchase price of an additional dwelling of £40,000 or more. It applies where a buyer purchases a dwelling in Scotland and at the end of the effective date of that transaction the buyer owns more than one dwelling (which can be anywhere in the world) and they are not replacing their only or main residence. The ADS can subsequently be reclaimed where a previous main residence is disposed of, however there are particular timelines and rules in place. LBTT is administered by Revenue Scotland, you will find more information and detailed examples on their website at www.revenue.scot/land-buildings-transaction-tax

You will find more general information regarding living in Scotland at www.scotland.org/about-scotland

Renting a Property

You may wish to rent a property from a private landlord or apply for housing from a social landlord, either a local council or housing association.

If you want to rent a home privately there are steps you should follow. For example, before you move into a property, you should sign a tenancy agreement which sets out the terms of your tenancy. You'll usually pay the first month's rent and the deposit on the day you move into the property – your deposit must then be lodged in a tenancy deposit scheme. This means that when you leave the property your deposit will be returned in full if the property is left in good condition and all rent and bills have been paid.

MOD Tenancy Support Scheme

Tenancy Support scheme allows civilian and Service personnel to apply for an advance of pay/salary to help meet the cost of a deposit for a rental property. More information on this scheme is available on www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-service-housing-advice-office-leaflet-index/tenancy-deposit-loan-scheme-updated-4-may-2020

Many organisations provide homes for mid-market rent. These homes are aimed at helping people on low to modest incomes to access affordable, private rented accommodation. There are several ways of finding where these homes are, but the best is probably to look at what housing associations operate in your area or to check your local council's website.

Comprehensive information for tenants about private renting in Scotland can be found in the 'Private residential tenancies: tenant's guide' at www.gov.scot/publications/private-residential-tenancies-tenants-guide/

Housing associations and many local councils provide homes for social rent. When you apply for a social rented home, your housing needs will be checked and your application will be held on a housing list. Social landlords decide who is offered housing based on an applicant's housing need and in line with the landlord's allocation policy. You can find information about how to apply for social housing from local councils. Alternatively, you can apply directly to a housing association – the Scottish Housing Regulator maintains the public register of all Registered Social Landlords in Scotland.

For more information about renting a home in Scotland visit www.mygov.scot/housing-local-services/renting-property/

Council Tax

You will usually have to pay council tax, payable to your local council, if you're 18 or over and own or rent a home. If you rent, check your rental agreement to see who is responsible for council tax payments.

Your council tax band determines how much council tax you pay. You can find out the council tax band of your home by looking the property online via the Scottish Assessors website at <http://www.saa.gov.uk/>

Council Tax in Scotland has been frozen at 2020/21 levels, when the average charge for all property bands, including E, F, G and H, was between £339 and £509 lower in Scotland than England.

Armed forces personnel and their families may benefit from a 50% council tax discount where their home is left empty because their professional duties require them to live elsewhere.

For more information on council tax and to learn about council tax in your local authority you can visit <https://www.mygov.scot/council-tax/what-is-council-tax/>

Universal Credit

The Scottish Government offers people living in Scotland, and in receipt of the UK Government Universal Credit (UC), the choice to have the housing costs in their UC award paid direct to their landlord.

An information leaflet for people applying for, or in receipt of UC, is on the Scottish Government website at [Universal Credit: New choices for people living in Scotland \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Education

Scotland's schools are welcoming places where we want all children to achieve their potential. Education in Scotland is organised differently to the rest of the UK. This section will help you understand you and your children's entitlements in Scotland's schools.

You can find further information regarding school education in Scotland on our Parentzone website at <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>

'Forces Children's Education' includes lots of information about the Scottish education system and the geography and education resources available. More information can be found at www.forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/

Early Years Learning and Childcare

The Scottish Government and Local Authorities fund early learning and childcare. This means that it is free of charge for eligible children.

Currently, if your child is three or four years old, you can get up to 600 hours of funded early learning and childcare a year. This is equivalent to 16 hours a week if taken in term time or around 12 hours a week if taken all year round.

However, the Scottish Government is increasing the number of hours of funded early learning and childcare to 1,140 hours from August 2021. That's about 30 hours a week if taken over school term time or around 22 hours a week if taken all year round.

Local authorities are already beginning to phase in the increased hours so it's best to check with the local authority where you live to see what's happening at the moment.

Some two year olds can also get the same amount of funded early learning and childcare depending on whether you meet certain eligibility criteria, which you can find at: [Help paying for childcare in Scotland - mygov.scot](#). Once your child qualifies for early learning and childcare, they will stay eligible.

You can get funded hours for different types of registered early learning and childcare, such as a nursery (local authority or privately run), childminder or playgroup. Contact your local authority to find out more about the sessions and providers available to you and to find out how to apply.

You can find out more information, including which local authority has phased in increased hours, at www.parentclub.scot/elc

School Age and Stages

There are differences in the ages children start school across the UK. A summary of the age ranges in Scottish Education can be found on the third page on [Overview-of-Scottish-Education-System.pdf](https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/Overview-of-Scottish-Education-System.pdf) (forceschildrenseducation.org.uk)

Scotland provides free school education for all children from the age of around four and a half years old, up to the age of 18. Depending on when their birthday falls, some children can start before they are four and a half. Scotland has different enrolment and school entry dates than other parts of the UK.

Children start in Primary 1 and move up to the next class each year through to Primary 7. All children in Primaries 1-3 receive free school meals.

Children move up to secondary school automatically after primary school (aged 11 or 12 depending on when they started school).

Your local council is responsible for providing school education in the area you live. You can find full information on applying for all school places and placing requests in 'Choosing a school – a guide for parents' at www.gov.scot/Publications/2004/11/20232/46414

Term Time

Term dates will vary depending on your local authority area. You can find term dates at www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Latest/schoolholidays

What Will My Child Learn?

All children aged 3 to 18 in Scotland learn through the Curriculum for Excellence. Scotland's curriculum seeks to educate the 'whole child' so that they achieve their potential through being successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

The secondary school curriculum has two phases – the broad general education (S1-S3) and the senior phase (S4-S6).

As part of the Developing the Young Workforce programme, children and young people have a variety of opportunities to learn and develop skills for the world of work.

Schools, in collaboration with colleges and employers, have the flexibility to offer a range of experiences to meet the needs of all learners. Young people can also study a range of national and vocational qualifications and awards, including Nationals, Highers, Advanced Highers, Foundation Apprenticeships and Skills for Work courses. Further information on qualifications can be viewed at www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/QualificationsCanCrossBoundaries.pdf

A parent-friendly guide to Curriculum for Excellence has been produced by the National Parent Forum for Scotland (NPFS) and can be found at – [CfE in a Nutshell – National Parent Forum of Scotland \(npfs.org.uk\)](http://npfs.org.uk)

My Child Needs Extra Support

In the first instance, discuss your child's needs with the school, including any formal support plans (like a HCPC) previously in place. They will be best placed to provide information and support for your child. If you do not know which school your child will attend, you can check catchments based on your posting at <https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/parents/bases>.

Additional Support for Learning (ASL) in Scotland is different to Special Educational Needs & Disability in England (SEND), but your child will still receive support if they need it.

Additional Support Needs (ASN) are broadly defined, including those which might impact on children from Armed Forces families, such as transitions, interrupted learning and dealing with separation and loss. They can be of short or long-term duration and occur for a variety of reasons. ASN in Scotland includes needs defined as SEND in England.

We also have a Scottish advice service for additional support for learning, where you will find useful information about when your child might be entitled to extra support. This can be found at www.enquire.org.uk/

The Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) also provide support and assistance to families moving schools for a child with additional needs. More information can be found at [Children's Education Advisory Service \(CEAS\) – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Independent Schools

As well as local authority education, parents may consider enrolling their child in an independent school. All independent schools in Scotland are registered, with their details available online at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/independent-schools-in-scotland-register/>

The independent sector includes boarding schools, where children and young people stay at the school, either full-time or perhaps only for part of the week. Where a school provides boarding, it is registered with, and inspected by, the Care Inspectorate. You can find out more about the Care Inspectorate online at <https://www.careinspectorate.com/>

Boarding schools in Scotland differ, and may offer the Curriculum for Excellence or another curriculum. However, all independent schools are inspected by Education Scotland in the same way that local authority schools are. If you are considering enrolling your child at an independent boarding school, you are encouraged to make contact with the schools you are interested in, seeking a copy of the school's prospectus in order that you can be better informed about what each school offers.

The Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) are a useful source for more general information on independent schools. SCIS is a charitable body which represents most of Scotland's independent schools. You can visit <https://www.scis.org.uk/> for more information.

Further Education

Further education includes courses that are below the Higher National Certificate (HNC) level. These courses are taught in either secondary school or colleges and include:

- Academic courses below HNC level.
- Courses that do not lead to formal qualifications e.g. independent living skills.
- Courses on basic skills such as reading, writing and numeracy skills.
- Work-related courses, such as Scottish Vocational Qualifications.

Colleges are responsible for assessing an individual's criteria for funding, you should therefore enquire within your chosen college.

Higher Education

Higher Education in Scotland includes courses of study which are at a HNC level or above. Individuals can take these courses at college or university and there is no age limit. Higher education courses range from:

- HNC
- Higher National Diploma (HND)
- Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE)
- Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE)
- Undergraduate Ordinary Degree
- Undergraduate Honours Degree

If individuals are students in Higher Education, they may be entitled to financial support from our Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).

You and your family are entitled to support from SAAS if you: were ordinarily resident in Scotland before you enlisted to the services; or meet the ordinary residency criteria.

If you are not entitled to support from SAAS you will still be able to access support from your home UK funding body.

You can find more information on Higher Education funding for members of the Armed Forces and their families at [Funding for serving members of the Armed Forces, their families and veterans \(saas.gov.uk\)](https://www.saas.gov.uk/) or by calling SAAS direct on: 0300 555 0505.

Community Learning and Development (CLD) and Adult Learning

CLD supports primarily disadvantaged or vulnerable groups and individuals of all ages to engage in learning, with a focus on bringing about change in their lives and communities. Community Learning and Development includes:

- youth work, family learning and other early intervention work with children, young people and families
- community-based adult learning, including adult literacies and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- learning for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community, for example, people with disabilities, care leavers or offenders
- community development (building the capacity of communities to meet their own needs, engaging with, and influencing decision-makers)
- volunteer development
- learning support and guidance in the community.

If you want to find out more about community learning and development activities, contact your local authority. More information on CLD can also be found at [About Community Learning and Development | Community learning and development | Scottish education system | Education Scotland](#)

National Transitions Officer for Children and Young People of Armed Forces Families

There is a National Transitions Officer for Children and Young People of Armed Forces families in Scottish Schools in Scotland who work with Scottish local authorities, their schools, Children's Services partners, Third Sector partners, and Armed Forces Services to enhance policy and practice which will take into account the unique features affecting the education of Service Children.

Healthcare

Healthcare in Scotland is provided by Scotland's public health service, NHSScotland.

NHSScotland consists of 14 regional NHS Boards who are responsible for the protection and improvement of their population's health and for the delivery of frontline healthcare services. You can find more information on NHSScotland at www.scot.nhs.uk/about-nhs-scotland

Access to Healthcare

You will need to register and inform your new General Practice (GP) that you need to be re-referred rather than a new referral. It is important you find out where you are on the list before your move.

When settled in a place of residence in Scotland you and your family should register with a local doctor – a General Practitioner (GP). Your GP will be able to care for your health conditions and to provide treatment if you become unwell. Any prescriptions prescribed by your GP are free of charge. You can find more information at www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/nhs-services/doctors/registering-with-a-gp-practice

Members of the UK Armed Forces and family members should have any previous NHS waiting times taken into account when moving to a new location, including to Scotland. The expectation is that treatment in your new location will be met within the waiting time standards and Treatment Time Guarantee and according to clinical need.

Registering with a Dentist

You and your family can get care, advice and treatment from NHSScotland to keep your mouth, teeth and gums healthy. Scotland also provides free dental checks. You can find a dentist near you using the links at www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/nhs-services/dental/receiving-nhs-dental-treatment-in-scotland

NHS Eye Care

Scotland is the only country in the UK to provide free universal NHS-funded eye examinations. These are available to anyone ordinarily resident in the UK and to eligible overseas visitors. In some cases, the NHS will also give an optical voucher towards the cost of glasses or contact lenses.

www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/Publications/Documents/Fact%20Sheets/Guide%20to%20Eye%20Examinations%20Scotland.pdf

Connecting Communities

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland ([The ALLIANCE](#)) is a third sector organisation which helps connect people with local sources of support that will enable them to manage their own health conditions more effectively. See www.aliss.org

Mental Health

NHSScotland provides mental health services that offer a range of treatments and self-help advice for those experiencing mild, moderate or more complex mental health problems.

The first point of call for accessing NHS care is usually your GP. You can discuss any issue with your GP who can also arrange referral to more specialist services if that is necessary. You can find more details regarding support and services at www.nhsinform.scot/search?q=mental+health

Combat Stress

Provide a free and confidential 24-hour Helpline available for you to talk about mental health, which family members or carers can use too. You can access this through Combat Stress at www.combatstress.org.uk/helpline

Support and Social Care

The Scottish Government is working in partnership with service users, carers, Local Authorities, NHS Scotland, Integration Authorities, the Care Inspectorate and the voluntary and independent sectors to integrate health and social care services across Scotland. You can find all information in relation to Scotland's social care at www.nhsinform.scot/search?q=support+and+social+care

NHS Champions

Each NHS Board has a Armed Forces and Veterans' Champion, who has volunteered to support veterans in their area who may have health-related concerns or issues. Find your local NHS Champion: www.veterans-assist.org/veteran-support/veterans-champion/

Sexual Health/Family Planning Clinics

NHSScotland provides free sexual health services in Scotland. You can access professional and non-judgmental care on all family planning conception information, relationships and sexual health advice at www.sexualhealthscotland.co.uk or you can also visit your local GP.

Parent Club Scotland

Parent Club offers up-to-date guidance from the Scottish Government on your child's health and education. It's full of hints and tips from other parents and carers who've been there before. It also has advice to help you look after your own wellbeing and to point you in the direction of the support available.

Scotland's Baby Box

Every baby born and living in Scotland is entitled to a Baby Box. This is an opt-in scheme, and expectant parents register to receive their box via their midwife, at approximately 20 weeks.

Further information on Scotland's Baby Box can be found via the Scottish Government's Parent Club Website at www.parentclub.scot/baby-box, or via your health professional.

In An Emergency

NHS 24 is Scotland's telephone service providing health advice 24 hours a day. The telephone service allows people who feel unwell or those caring for them to obtain health advice if it is not possible to wait until they can visit their GP when the practice is next open. You can call them on 111 if you are ill or need any health services. Alternatively you can also access their website at www.nhs24.scot

The advice line is not intended as a substitute for obtaining an emergency ambulance service. For all life-threatening emergencies you should still call 999.

You will find more information on all health-related topics including dental care, smoking, alcohol, food and nutrition and mental wellbeing on NHS inform's website at www.nhsinform.scot

Employment and Training

There are a number of ways to find work in Scotland and below is a list of the support services that we provide to help you in securing employment.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

SDS is Scotland's national skills body and provides careers information, advice and guidance, as well as work-based training programmes aimed at building career management skills. They support a wide range of pathways into work, including Modern Apprenticeships (further information below). There are SDS Careers Centres based in each local authority area which you can visit to access support, more information on these can be found at www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk

There is also an online service, My World of Work (<https://careers.myworldofwork.co.uk/>), which can assist you through every stage of your working life. Anyone can access information on a wide range of subjects, including choosing a career, learning and training, applying for jobs and making a career change. You will find information on researching careers to building your CV. You can also access specific information and assistance for veterans and early service leavers through the dedicated page at www.myworldofwork.co.uk/support-armed-forces-leavers-and-veterans

They also deliver Career Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) services. The service enables people to adequately prepare for, enter and progress through the labour market, and to fulfil their potential in the workplace. www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/44956/ciag_report_2018

Working In Your Local Area

You can apply to work for your local council across a wide range of job roles and services. Visit My Job Scotland to view, search and apply for jobs in your area at www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/

Jobcentre Plus helps people to find and progress in work, including those who are unemployed and claiming benefits. Visit your nearest Jobcentre Plus for help with finding a job and information on any benefits you and your family might be entitled to, or visit the website at www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/entitlement

You can find further information surrounding the support services available at www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/

Modern Apprenticeships (MAs)

Modern apprenticeships in Scotland can offer you opportunities to learn on the job, get the experience you need, and work towards a qualification www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/modern-apprenticeships/

Graduate Apprenticeships (GAs)

Graduate Apprenticeships provide work-based learning opportunities up to Master's degree level for new and existing employees. They have been created in partnership with industry and the further and higher education sector. The apprenticeships combine academic knowledge with skills development to enable participants to become more effective and productive in the workplace. www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/apprenticeships/graduate-apprenticeships/

Forces Families Jobs

Forces Families Jobs is an employment and training platform for Service spouses, partners and family members. It offers employers free access to a pool of talented employees of service spouses and family members whose current resource is very much untapped. You can find out more information or register at FFJ on www.ForcesFamiliesJobs.co.uk

Benefits and Social Care

We have lots of help available for accessing benefits and social care in Scotland. More information about some of the support services is below.

Social Security Scotland

Social Security Scotland is an agency of the Scottish Government. They are responsible for the delivery of some low income, disability and carer benefits and they will be responsible for 14 benefits once fully operational. You can find out more about what benefits are delivered by Social Security Scotland at <https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/benefits>

Your Local Council

Many local councils have welfare rights advisers who can help you with problems surrounding benefits or your eligibility. You can find your local council by typing in your postcode at www.gov.uk/find-local-council

Citizens Advice Scotland

You can find information on benefits and other issues like housing, debt and employment at www.cas.org.uk/bureaux or 0808 800 9060.

Armed Services Advice Project (ASAP)

ASAP also provides dedicated information, advice and support to members of the Armed Forces Community in Scotland. The service is provided by the Scottish Citizens Advice Bureau Service, more information can be found at www.adviceasap.org.uk

Turn to Us

Turn to Us can provide support if you are suffering financial hardship you can find further information at <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Your-Situation/Member-of-the-Armed-Forces-Veteran>

Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)

DWP is responsible for most welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy. They deal with the administration of a range of working age, disability and ill-health benefits.

As part of the Armed Forces Covenant, the DWP has initiatives that help current and former members of the Armed Forces and their families access Jobcentre Plus services. This includes having an Armed Forces champion in every Jobcentre Plus district who ensures that DWP provide support that meets the needs of the Armed Forces Community. See more information on the DWP and the Armed Forces at www.gov.uk/government/publications/jobcentre-plus-services-for-the-armed-forces-and-their-families

You will find further information on the Scottish Government's website at www.mygov.scot/benefits

Other Useful Information

Elections and Scottish Parliament

You can find out who your local MSP, MP and Councillor is by entering your postcode at www.writetothem.com/

Serving personnel, along with their spouses or partners, can take part in elections and referendums. You can find out more information about how you can register to vote in Scotland at www.mygov.scot/register-to-vote-scotland/

Local Authority Champions

All Local Authorities within Scotland have nominated an Armed Forces and Veterans Champion who acts as an advocate on behalf of the Armed Forces Community within that area. The Champions are in place to support the Armed Forces Community to identify any issues which need to be addressed and resolved. As well as this numerous other organisations, including NHS Boards and other statutory bodies have also nominated Armed Forces and Veterans Champions.

You can find more information on who your Local Authority Champion is on Veterans Assist Scotland Website at [Veterans Assist Scotland » Subjects » Veterans Champion \(veterans-assist.org\)](http://Veterans Assist Scotland » Subjects » Veterans Champion (veterans-assist.org))

Posted in Scotland

Posted or settling in Scotland is a guide created by SO2 Transition from Army HQ in Scotland, it gives information about the organisations that operate in Scotland, service families accommodation, childcare, schools, help to buy, buying a home, renting a home and going to university or college in Scotland. It will help anyone posted to/or settling in Scotland to prepare for that move. In addition to signposting some amazing organisations everyone should know about it also dispels some of the myths about issues that affect the Armed Forces community such as: Scottish rates of income tax, Service Pupil Premium and most importantly... the weather!

Scots Law

Scots law is the legal system in Scotland, and although elements in the Scottish legal system are similar to those in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, there are important differences between Scots law, English law and Northern Irish law. You can find out more about Scots law on the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service (Scotland's prosecution service) website at www.copfs.gov.uk/

The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019

In Scotland, the criminal law can be different to that of the rest of the UK. For example, the Scottish Parliament passed legislation in 2019 that made all forms of physical punishment of a child unlawful. www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2019/16/contents

Taxes in Scotland

There are three different types of tax in Scotland:

- local taxes, administered by local authorities
- devolved taxes, administered by Revenue Scotland and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC); and
- taxes reserved to the UK, administered solely by HMRC.

The Scottish Parliament has the power to set the rates and bands of Income Tax for Scottish taxpayers on their earnings from employment, self-employment, property and pensions. HMRC collects Income Tax on behalf of the Scottish Government – through the same systems that are in place across the rest of the UK. If you meet the definition of a Scottish taxpayer, HMRC will issue you with a specific Scottish tax code that identifies you as a Scottish taxpayer.

Income Tax makes up around 30% of the Scottish Budget, which means that people living in Scotland are contributing directly to their local communities and services. The revenue raised from taxation in Scotland supports the most comprehensive range of free to access public services available in the UK.

- You can find out more about Scottish Income Tax policy at <https://www.gov.scot/policies/taxes/income-tax/>

Supporting You

The Scottish Government greatly values and supports our Armed Forces personnel, veterans and families and recognises the contribution they make to their communities. We have a great network of organisations in Scotland, which can help and support serving personnel and their families. For example:

Royal Caledonian Education Trust

The Royal Caledonian Education Trust is Scotland's Armed Forces children's charity. They provide free advice and support available for Armed Forces children and for families who may find themselves struggling, including advice on education, healthcare and mental health and wellbeing.

Some useful links where you can find more information on education and mental health and wellbeing can be found at:

Education: www.rcet.org.uk/help/we-help-teaching/

Mental health and wellbeing: www.rcet.org.uk/Your-Mind-Matters/

Further support can be found at www.rcet.org.uk alternatively they can be contacted on admin@rcet.org.uk or 0131 322 7350

Family Federations

There are three Family Federations representing each of the three services, Navy, Army and RAF. Each of the Family Federations is independent from the services and works to improve the quality of life for Service families around the world – on any aspect that is affected by the military lifestyle.

They also provide a signposting service to help you find the right person to speak to, as well as providing useful information for Service families.

More information on the individual Family Federations can be found via:

Naval Family Federation
Phone: 023 9265 4374
Website: <https://nff.org.uk/>

Army Family Federation
Phone: 01264 554004
Website: <https://aff.org.uk/>

RAF Family Federation
Phone: 01780 781650
Website: www.raf-ff.org.uk/

Veterans Scotland
Address: New Haig House, Logie Green Rd, Edinburgh EH7 4HR
Phone: 0131 550 1569
Website: <http://www.veteransscotland.co.uk/>

Legion Scotland

Address: New Haig House, Logie Green Road, Edinburgh EH7 4HQ

Phone: 0131 550 1583

Website: www.legionscotland.org.uk

PoppyScotland

Address: New Haig House, Edinburgh EH7 4HQ

Phone: 0131 557 2782

Website: www.poppyscotland.org.uk/

Glasgow Helping Heroes

Address: 840-860 Govan Road, Glasgow G51 3UU

Phone: 0141 276 7199

Website: www.glasgowshelpingheroes.org/

Combat Stress

Call: 0800 138 1619

Text: 07537 404 719

Website: www.combatstress.org.uk/

Armed Forces Covenant

Website: www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk

Support in Mind Scotland

Address: 6 Newington Business Centre, Dalkeith Road Mews, Edinburgh EH16 5GA Phone: 0131 662 4359

Website: www.supportinmindscotland.org.uk/

SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity

Phone: 0131 557 1697

Website: www.ssafa.org.uk/

Armed Service Advice Project (ASAP)

Phone: 0808 800 1007

Website: www.adviceasap.org.uk/

Shelter Scotland

Address: Scotiabank House, 6 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh EH2 4AW

Phone: 0808 800 4444

Website: <https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/>



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