



# AFPS Quarterly Digest

## 2015 Remedy

In order to implement the 2015 retrospective remedy, the MOD have undertaken a public consultation which details the policy and legislative changes required and the effect on pensions for those members who are in scope. The remedy applies to public service pension scheme members who were in service both on or before 31 March 2012 and on or



after 1 April 2015, with no gap in service longer than 5 years. The consultation will close on 29 May 2023 and views are encouraged from affected Serving Personnel and Veterans. To read and respond to the consultation, please access the following link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/armed-forces-pension-scheme-retrospective-remedy>.

A series of briefings were held throughout March to assist affected members in understanding and responding to the consultation document. A recording of the briefing can be found on YouTube here - <https://youtu.be/65Hb6BKHF44>

with a subsequent briefing on the divorce and re-joiners enclosures here - <https://youtu.be/dmtGkQSQvP4>.

For any questions regarding the consultation document, or to request a copy of the FAQs for the consultation,

please email [people-afpension-mccloud@mod.gov.uk](mailto:people-afpension-mccloud@mod.gov.uk). Please note, this email address should not be used to ask for financial advice, to request access to personal information or for pension forecasts, as we will be unable to provide that detail. For those with access, you can also find the FAQs on the 2015 Remedy Defence Connect page, and further information can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and the [MOD YouTube channel](#).

The MOD is planning to release a calculator in August

2023 to provide active members an illustration of their pension entitlement and the impact the remedy may have on their benefits.

Armed Forces Pension Scheme: Retrospective Remedy Consultation Questions

Everyone who is in scope for remedy will be provided with a Remediable Service Statement within 18 months of the implementation date (1 October 2023).

Please note, the calculator is for illustrative purposes and should not be used as financial advice or for retirement planning. If you are due to retire before 1 October 2023, you should plan to do so based on your current benefits. Those who wish to receive financial advice on their pension should contact an independent advisor.

## Pension Tax and Changes

Following the Chancellor's Spring Budget, there are changes to the way pensions are taxed.

### Lifetime Allowance

The lifetime allowance (LTA) is the total amount you can build up in your pension savings without incurring a tax charge.

The LTA Tax Charge has been

removed, effective from 6 April 2023. The LTA will be abolished completely from April 2024. If your pension comes into payment after 6 April 2023, you will still receive an award letter with information on LTA included, as the legislative requirement that Schemes provide this information has not yet been removed.



However, your pension coming into payment will not result in an LTA Tax Charge, and your benefits will not be reduced to meet such a charge. If your pension has come into payment prior to 6 April 2023,

and your benefits resulted in an LTA Tax Charge, this charge has been paid by Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) on your behalf and you have been informed. Your benefits will not be revised.

### Annual Allowance

The Annual Allowance (AA) is the amount of value permitted to be added to pensions in a single tax year without taxation on the excess growth.

The AA has risen from £40,000 to £60,000, effective from 6 April 2023. This means that fewer numbers of AFPS members will exceed the AA and receive a tax charge.

DBS will write to those not in scope for 2015 Remedy who have exceeded the Annual

Allowance (£40,000) in Tax Year 2022-23 in Autumn 2023. DBS will write to anyone who exceeds the Annual Allowance (£60,000) in Tax Year 2023-24 in Autumn 2024.

### Support

If you are still serving and have been affected by pension taxation, or expect to be in the future, please look out for Defence Instructions and Notices (DINs) which will be published this summer. For further information on the changes to pension tax, visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and search 'Pension Tax Limits'.

# Adult Dependants' Entitlements

In Issue 10 (February 2023) we shared information on what children may be entitled to on the death of a member. Additionally, you may wish to familiarise yourself with the conditions for entitlement of adult dependants.

If you are entitled to a pension, your surviving adult dependant (spouse/civil partner/eligible partner) may be able to claim part of that pension when you die. The conditions for entitlement vary depending on which of the Armed Forces

Pension Schemes you are a member of, your relationship to the dependant, and when you served in the Armed Forces.

For the most relevant information on what your dependants are able to claim in the event of your death, visit **GOV.UK/guidance/pensions-and-compensation-for-veterans**, select your scheme from the options, and review the relevant section of the 'Your Scheme Explained' booklets.

If you are in any doubt, or would like to request a forecast of dependant benefits, please send a signed and dated letter including your full name and service number as well as the full name, date(s) of birth of your dependants and/or date of marriage to:

**Veterans UK**  
DBS Pensions Division  
Mail Point 486  
Kentigern House  
65 Brown Street  
Glasgow, G2 8EX

Alternatively, the signed letter can be scanned and emailed to **dbs-pensionshelp@dbspv.mod.uk**.

In the unfortunate event of a member's death, surviving



dependants should notify the Scheme as soon as possible to ensure that the pension payments stop and do not create an overpayment, and to ensure that entitled dependants/nominees are paid the appropriate correct pension and lump sum.

To notify a death, please use the government Tell Us Once service: **GOV.UK/after-a-death**

# Voice of the Customer



Have you used the services of Defence Business Services (DBS) or communicated with us recently?

We will shortly be issuing our first Voice of the Customer (VoC) survey to a random

selection of our customers and would be grateful if you would participate as fully as possible.

Your opinion counts and will assist us to improve the services we provide for you.



## Help and Support

For help and support with your pension award, contact the Enquiry Centre on **0800 085 3600** or **0044 141 224 3600** if calling from abroad (Mon - Fri 7am to 7pm).

If your circumstances or details change, please contact our paying agent, Equiniti, on **0345 121 2514** or **0044 2079 495022** if calling from abroad (Mon - Fri, 8am to 6pm) or email: **veteransukpensions@equiniti.com** to ensure your pension continues to be paid accurately and on time.

Please ensure you have your Service and National Insurance Numbers ready. You can find useful information on all the Schemes by visiting:

**<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pensions-and-compensation-for-veterans>**

## Tell us how we are doing

Please take a couple of minutes to complete our **feedback survey**



**[bit.ly/AFPSQDFeedback](https://bit.ly/AFPSQDFeedback)**

## Pension Awareness Week 2023



Armed Forces Pension Awareness Week will take place this year from 11-15 September. The week will again be hosted for active members via Defence Connect and feature the release of a variety of new, informative factsheets and member guidance, as well as feature live seminars hosted by the Forces Pension Society and White Ensign Association. Participants will be able to ask questions to

policy experts via a Slido 'Ask Me Anything' forum in advance of the week. Stay tuned for further announcements, including the release of the agenda for the week in the next edition of the Quarterly Digest. Announcements will also go live on defnet and Defence Connect in the build up to the week.