

Armed Forces accommodation

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Armed Forces accommodation

Armed forces accommodation is split into two types:

1. Single living accommodation
2. Service families accommodation

Owing to the low cost of Single Living Accommodation, servicemen and women may not qualify for Universal Credit due to their level of earnings.

Single living accommodation

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) provides single living accommodation to:

- single servicemen and women

Multi-occupancy barracks-type rooms are still used by recruits during initial training. For other soldiers, the army is in the process of moving to single occupancy en-suite rooms. Until that process is complete, rooms for 2 and 4 people are available.

Rent charges are a daily occupancy charge.

Service families' accommodation

The MOD provides service families' accommodation for servicemen and women who are:

- married or in civil partnerships
- widowed, divorced or separated with dependent children

The accommodation is usually close to, or within 10 miles of, their duty station. Most are fully furnished, though tenants may use their own furniture if they wish. Existing householders may decide to continue living in their own home.

For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defence-infrastructure-organisation-service-family-accommodation>

Rent charges are a daily occupancy charge.

How to treat Armed Forces accommodation

Servicemen and women may claim Universal Credit. The following paragraphs explain how to treat armed forces accommodation based on the type of accommodation that is occupied and does not imply that a claimant would receive an award of Universal Credit.

Private Rented Sector (PRS) rules apply for claimants living in army accommodation who make a claim to Universal Credit.

Single living accommodation:

If living in single living accommodation, a Local Housing Allowance (LHA) Shared Accommodation Rate (SAR) would be applicable to the calculation of housing costs if the rent exceeds this LHA rate.

Service families' accommodation:

If the accommodation was for service families, the relevant LHA rate would apply to the calculation of housing costs if the rent exceeds this LHA rate dependent on the number of rooms required as per any other PRS claim.