

In 2009, a review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) was undertaken by Admiral the Lord Boyce on behalf of the MOD. Although the scheme was found to be fundamentally sound, the former Chief of Defence Staff did make several recommendations for improvement. The MOD has subsequently implemented the changes and on the 9th May 2011, the final tranche of legislation became effective. (Further information is available from 2011DIN01-204 Armed Forces Compensation Scheme).

Under the revised scheme, one significant change being introduced means that seriously injured ex-Service personnel who move permanently overseas after leaving the Armed Forces may be eligible to get their medical expenses paid. As long as individuals are deemed eligible, and the move is in the best interests of the individual's care needs, the SPVA may exercise this provision.

It is only those Service personnel who sustain injuries or become ill as a result of their Service who may be eligible to apply for this provision, and are required to fulfil the following criteria:

- Move Abroad (and apply for approval) within 12 months of leaving the Services. For those injured before this provision was introduced, they have until 09 May 2012 to apply and move.
- Be recognised as seriously injured as a result of service under the AFCS (i.e. in receipt of an AFCS award between levels 1-8).

All individuals who believe that this provision could benefit them should contact the SPVA via their free helpline 0800 169 2277 or 0044 1253 866 043 if overseas or visit:

www.mod.uk/afcs or www/veterans-uk.info