

Forces Pension Society

Championing Armed Forces Pensions since 1946



AFPS 15 remains one of the most valuable public sector pension schemes available, offering a wide range of benefits, some of which are highlighted below.

In fact, before exploring those benefits, it is worth examining how AFPS 15 compares with other public sector pension schemes. Contrary to the perception held by some, it is far from the “poor relation” of the public sector pension landscape. The table below demonstrates why AFPS 15 continues to rank among the leading schemes available.

	Armed Forces	Civil Service	Police	Fire Service	Teachers	NHS
Accrual*	1/47	1/43.1	1/55.3	1/59.7	1/57	1/54
Direct Personal Contributions	0%	5.03% Av	13.11% Av	12.25% Av	9.55% Av	10.08%
Death in Service Lump Sum	4 x	2 x	3 x	3 x	3 x	2 x

*build up rate

However, these comparisons are just the starting point. AFPS 15 offers a number of other valuable benefits, highlighted below.

Career Average Scheme

If you serve to the age of 60, your pension will be paid immediately when you leave. If you exit earlier, pension payments are deferred until state pension age, but you may qualify for an Early Departure Payment (see below). For every year you serve, the MOD adds 1/47th of your annual pensionable earnings to your individual pension. Each year, it increases in line with the Average Weekly Earnings Index, thereby retaining the value of your pension for the long term.



Transfers in

If you've built up pension benefits before joining the Armed Forces, you may be able to transfer their value into your Armed Forces Pension Scheme. This will increase the benefits from your Armed Forces pension, but you should compare the difference between the two before you make your decision to transfer. Transfers must be completed within 12 months of joining AFPS15. Once agreed the decision is permanent.

Added Pension

This is extra pension you can purchase to increase your benefits on retirement. It's very flexible – with a minimum contribution of just £25 a month. Added Pension contracts are annual contracts so you can easily stop or start if your circumstances change. It is highly tax-efficient since payments into the scheme are taken from your gross pay before tax. The scheme not only delivers a bigger pension, but it also increases your Early Departure Payment and lump sum.

Early Departure Payment (EDP)

Assuming departure before age 60, for a 20-year minimum term, you will qualify for an EDP equivalent to at least 34% of your deferred pension, plus a tax-free lump sum equivalent to 2.25 times the deferred pension. This is quite separate from any pension you'll receive at State Pension Age and is unique to the Armed Forces! EDP automatically stops at State Pension Age and then **you must claim your pension.**

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AFPS15 KEY BENEFITS

Resettlement Grant

A resettlement grant is a tax-free lump sum paid to members of the UK Armed Forces leaving regular service after a significant period of service to help them transition to civilian life. To be eligible, an individual generally must have served for at least 12 years and not be entitled to an immediate pension or EDP.

Dependants Benefits

Provided you have served more than two years at the time of your death, your spouse or civil partner will be eligible to receive a pension under AFPS15. If you die in Service, your spouse/civil partner or eligible partner will receive an immediate pension, paid for life, and a tax-free lump sum amounting to four times your final pensionable earnings. To ensure these benefits pass to the right person, you need to keep your personal details up to date on JPA (serving) or with JPAC (veterans).

In summary, AFPS 15 remains one of the strongest public sector pension schemes available. From valuable retirement benefits to financial protection for you and your family, it offers exceptional long-term value throughout your military career and beyond.

FORCES PENSION SOCIETY - WHAT WE DO



Guidance

Our expert team help Members navigate their way through the pension maze empowering them to make better informed decisions about their Armed Forces pension



Campaigning

We represent the entire Armed Forces community at top tables of the MoD and Public Services Pension Boards and campaign whenever we see unfairness



Education

Through our group briefings, we help the Armed Forces community understand their pensions and take ownership of key decisions.



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