

How businesses are helping to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant

Mortgages:

Since December 2016 members of the Armed Forces redeployed within the UK and abroad have been able to rent out their primary residence without facing higher costs or having to change their mortgage. Previously members of the Armed Forces who rented out their homes during deployment could have been required to change their residential mortgage to a buy-to-let mortgage, often incurring new charges. Under this new arrangement they will no longer have to do this. In total 47 banks and building societies have signed up to the scheme.

Building societies involved in the scheme:

1. Bath
2. Buckinghamshire
3. Cambridge
4. Chorley
5. Coventry
6. Cumberland
7. Darlington
8. Ecology
9. Families
10. Hanley Economic
11. Holmesdale
12. Ipswich
13. Leeds
14. Loughborough
15. Mansfield
16. Melton Mowbray
17. Monmouthshire
18. Nationwide
19. Newbury
20. Newcastle
21. Nottingham
22. Penrith
23. Principality
24. Scottish
25. Skipton
26. Tipton & Coseley
27. West Brom
28. Yorkshire

Banks involved in the scheme:

1. Allied Irish Bank
2. Aldermore
3. Bank Of Ireland
4. Barclays
5. Charter Court Financial Services
6. Clydesdale & Yorkshire Bank Group
7. Danske Bank
8. Hampden &Co
9. HSBC
10. Lloyds Banking Group (including Lloyds bank, Halifax and Bank of Scotland)
11. OneSavings Bank
12. RBS (including Natwest, Royal Bank of Scotland and Ulster Bank)
13. Reliance Bank
14. Sainsbury's Bank
15. Santander UK
16. The co-operative Bank
17. TSB Bank
18. Virgin Money

Motor Insurance:

Since 25 June 2016 Armed Forces personnel posted overseas have been able to keep their motor insurance No Claims Bonus for up to three years, and not pay cancellation fees. This commitment has come from the UK's biggest insurers and brokers who represent 86 per cent of Britain's insurance market.

Previously members of the Armed Forces deployed overseas could lose their motor insurance no claims discounts when they return to the UK, meaning that experienced drivers who have never been involved in a road traffic accident end up paying the same high premiums as newly qualified drivers. They also faced cancellation fees when posted overseas at short notice. Service personnel and their families as a result of this change will no longer have to face these additional costs.

A full list of those who have signed up to the Motor insurance offer and what they specifically offer can be found through this link:

<https://www.abi.org.uk/globalassets/sitecore/files/documents/publications/public/2016/motor/armed-forces-personnel-the-motor-insurance-commitment.pdf>

Broadband/TV Package:

Since March 2017, Armed Forces personnel have no longer had to pay cancellation fees for their broadband and media packages when posted overseas, or to another part of the UK not covered by their provider. By consequence of this change they will therefore no longer be disadvantaged by the mobile nature of service life.

Companies which have signed up:

- BT
- Sky
- EE
- Plusnet
- Talk Talk
- Virgin Media

Mobile Phone Contracts:

Since October 2015 armed forces families who are posted overseas have been able to suspend their UK mobile phone contracts until they return to the UK. The move, extended existing commitments made to service personnel, to their spouses and children, and is supported by all of the main providers.

Companies which have signed up:

- **Vodafone** - has committed to enable armed forces families to suspend mobile contracts for two years. There are separate arrangements in place for those deploying for more than 2 years.
- **Three** - has committed to suspend contracts of spouses joining their partners abroad for 12 months. If deployed for more than 12 months, a discount will be applied to any termination charges.
- **EE** - has committed to enable armed forces families to suspend contracts for 12 months.
- **O2** - has committed to develop proposals that build on what they already do to help to ensure that serving personnel and their families living abroad are not penalised.