

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Cohabitation for SP in Surplus SFA – FAQs**

#### **What are the current rules for Cohabitation in Surplus SFA?**

All non-entitled regular and FTRS (FC) SP are currently eligible to apply for Surplus SFA at entitled rates where availability of surplus SFA permits, however, JSP 464 policy currently prevents these SP from cohabiting.

In addition, entitled PStat Cat 2 SP, are also not permitted to cohabit in their SFA.

#### **What are the changes to cohabitation?**

To be eligible to cohabit in surplus SFA, SP will have to have completed more than 4 years of Service and be in an established Long-Term Relationship (LTR(E)). An LTR(E) will be defined by specified criteria and recorded as such on JPA. No entitlement exists to accommodation or eligibility to any other supporting payments or allowances based on the LTR(E) status.

#### **How will I prove I am in a Long-Term Relationship?**

Policy has defined a list of criteria which provide sufficient evidence of an established relationship of 12 months or more; JSP 464 Vol ,1 Part 1, Chapter 1, Annex B. Where an SP cannot provide sufficient evidence, SP will be permitted to register their relationship with their Unit HR, in order to qualify after a 12-month period. Where SP believe that in the absence of the prescribed evidence, they still have a legitimate claim of being in an LTR, they will be able to present casework to their Chain of Command, via their Unit HR. If the Chain of Command supports the case, they should forward it to CDP Accommodation Policy staffs for a decision.

#### **Why do I have to have completed 4 years of Service and wait 12 months?**

The 12-month criteria for an LTR was agreed by the Service People Policy Group (SPPG) as being the minimum required period in which an LTR should endure to be recognised as established.

The four-year eligibility criteria provides parity and alignment with widened eligibility policy under the Future Accommodation Model. This was agreed at the SPPG in recognition that there is scope to test and adjust the 4-year rule accordingly, as lessons are learned from SP behaviours during the FAM pilot.

## **Child/children of Long-Term Relationships**

The policy definition of a child or children remains extant and subject to PStat Cat status as defined in JSP 752. Under cohabitation, the child or children of an SP should be registered as per current policy (PStat Cat). Children of a recognised partner can be registered/established at the same time as the long-term relationship in the application process. Where the child/ren are solely of the LTR(E) partner and not the SP, the burden remains with the SP to demonstrate proof of an established relationship. Children will not be entitled to accommodation or other supporting payments or allowances based on the parent's LTR(E) status.

### **What allowances would I be eligible for?**

The introduction of cohabitation in surplus accommodation for eligible SP does not attract any additional allowances. SP will remain entitled to allowances in line with their allocated PStat Cat Status. Cohabitation is an extension of eligibility and is not a widening of entitlement.

### **Are there any changes to the 28-day surplus licence under cohabitation?**

All aspects of the surplus licence remain unchanged and the surplus licence would still have a minimum 28-day notice to vacate.

### **When will cohabitation be introduced?**

Widening eligibility for SP in a LTR(E) to cohabit in surplus SFA will be effective from 1 April 2019.

### **I am a PStat Cat 2 and already occupy SFA, what do I do next?**

If you are already living within SFA and wish to cohabit the first thing you will be required to do is to submit the required evidence of your LTR to unit HR for approval. Once approved, you must then notify DIO of your intent to cohabit and register your partner and any children who will be residing at the property.

### **What if there is no surplus SFA at a unit?**

Eligible SP do not hold an entitlement to SFA and can only access Surplus SFA where available; if there is no surplus SFA at a location SP will not be entitled to Substitute SFA. SP may only cohabit in surplus SFA at their place of work, which is defined as within a 50-mile radius of the SP's assigned location. SP in an LTR(E) applying to cohabit in SFA, must reside in the property with their partner and record the residence on JPA as their Resident at Work Address (RWA).

### **How will Surplus SFA be prioritised?**

Surplus allocation will consider the relationship status of an eligible SP, and any children, as defined in JSP 464 Vol 1 Part 1 Chapter 9.