

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q&As)

ASSIGNMENT FREEZE

Why was the Assignment Freeze necessary?

- The nation is currently in an unprecedented time while we all deal with the challenge of COVID-19. The Assignment Freeze was introduced as a response to Government guidance to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. It was a necessary measure to comply with the restrictions on non-essential travel.

GRADUATED RETURN TO ROUTINE ASSIGNMENTS

When will the Assignment Freeze be lifted?

- For most personnel in the Army, we will begin a graduated return to routine assignments from 1 Jul 20. The new movement dates have been planned in 4 phases determined by your original Report for Duty date (RDD). Some groups of people will be given the opportunity to move 15-30 Jun 20, all personnel in this group will be notified by their Career Manager week commencing 18 May 20.

What are the new movement dates?

Ser (a)	Movement Window (b)	Details (c)
Phase 0	15-30 Jun 20	Early movement window
Phase 1	1-31 Jul 20	All personnel with RDD date 1-30 Apr 20
Phase 2	1-31 Aug 20	All personnel with RDD date 1-31 May 20
Phase 3	1-30 Sep 20	All personnel with RDD date 1-30 Jun 20

What is the early movement window?

- This is designed to allow early movement of personnel moving into key appointments and those who have been most effected by the assignment freeze. Personnel who were granted an exemption from the assignment freeze but are now dislocated from their family, moving into a command appointment, had an RDD in Mar 20 or personnel moving to/from a NATO appointment overseas.

Why are the new movement dates planned in phases?

- There are approximately 5,000 Army personnel who, with their families, were originally due to move between 23 March – 30 June and whose assignment movement has been affected by the Assignment Freeze. We need to move in a controlled and deliberate manner to ensure that contracted services such as Amey, Mears Gp and Agility are available for everyone and to sequence the availability of SFA.

I do not require a household move. Am I still restricted to my allotted movement window?

- You should plan to move within your allotted movement window but if your losing and gaining units are in agreement, then you should be able to move after 1

Jul 20. The Chain of Command and MS Rep will submit a Change Notification to APC.

My assignment date is after 1 Jul 20, how does this affect me?

- The assignment freeze was in effect 23 Mar-30 Jun 20. If you have an Assignment Order with a RDD after 1 Jul 20, this does not affect you and you can move as planned.

What if I am moving between basic, initial trade or subsequent trade training?

- This movement was exempt from the assignment freeze and it will remain exempt from the graduated return to routine assignments, you should continue as planned.

My next assignment is in N Ireland, Scotland or Wales, how does this affect me?

- Defence takes its direction from HM Government but must follow guidance from the devolved powers. If movement restrictions are stricter in the location you are due to move to, you may have to wait before you can move to your next assignment.

My next assignment is overseas, how does this affect me?

- Movement to many overseas locations may take longer than those within the UK. They are also subject to restrictions that the host nation may impose and may need to be dealt with on a case by case basis. Find out what you can from the local administrative unit and seek advice from your Career Manager where necessary.

HOW IT WORKS

Will I receive a new Assignment Order?

- No, you don't need a new Assignment Order. The Reporting for Duty Date (RDD) on your original Assignment Order will be used to calculate your allotted movement window (July, August or September). For example, if your original assignment date was 23 May, it will now be 23 August.

Is movement still permitted +/- 28 days from the date on my Assignment Order?

- As long as no movement happens before 1 Jul 20, then normal rules apply and personnel may be able to move up to 28 days before or after the RDD on their Assignment Order. However, this is subject to approval by their losing and gaining unit and the availability of contracted services (availability of SLA, SFA and removals (as relevant)).

What if I have a compelling reason to move before or after my allotted phase?

- There are several reasons which mean that you may wish to submit a Change Request for your movement date, possible reasons might include: operations, readiness, training, overseas location, career implications or for significant personal reasons. Full details are contained in the FragO and requests should be discussed with your CoC and MS Rep before being submitted to APC. All Change Requests will be carefully considered but limitations on the availability of SFA and removals may prevent early movement.

If I am permitted to move in a different phase, will my family move with me?

- We will try to move personnel and their families together but there may be occasions that this is not possible. The information that we have used to develop this plan has accounted for a maximum number of household moves each month. If you need to ask to move in a different phase, SFA/removals etc may not be available at the same time.

ACCOMMODATION

I have already submitted my E1132 paperwork for my household move, do I need to re-submit it?

- No, your details have been retained by Agility and have been shared with DIO to enable contact with you to discuss your move. Amey and Agility will start to contact all affected personnel soon.

I haven't yet submitted my E1132 paperwork for my household move, what shall I do?

- You should submit paperwork in accordance with your allotted phase and the usual timings required to request SFA/removals etc, using the following details:
 - **Date.** Use the new movement date allocated within Phases 0-3, not the original RDD on the AO.
 - **Justification.** Use the free text box to add the comment: *"This move was affected by the Assignment Freeze and has been delayed as part of the Graduated Return to Routine Assignments direction."*

I am moving into SSSA, what shall I do?

- Early moves may be available for Mears supported SSSA allocations. You should discuss submitting a Change Request with your CoC and MS Representative. If SSSA is available within your new location, you may be able to move before your allotted phase.

Will social distancing measures affect my removals?

- Agility is the Defence Contractor for removal services. Social distancing measures during the removals preparation and conduct will continue and require a modification to the normal process you are familiar with. Agility will provide you with guidance to explain the specific preparations and procedures required for your move.

My family and I are isolating due to COVID-19 but we are due to move, what shall we do?

- Personnel who are isolating due to COVID-19 should not move and must inform their CoC and Amey/Agility (if requiring SFA/Removals) of their situation. Their movement dates will be adjusted accordingly.

FAMILY CONSIDERATIONS

My movement window is not until September, but my children need to start at a new school at a critical stage of their education. What do I do?

- This could be justification to apply for a Change Request, particularly if your children are entering key school years or have special educational requirements. You should consider submitting a Change Request to your movement window via your CoC and MS Rep. Further guidance is available at the DYCP website and advice can be sought from the Children Education Advisory Service (CEAS) via DCYP-CEAS-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk.

Is it still possible to apply to retain my SFA?

- Yes. If you are seeking to retain SFA in the UK, you should continue to apply for retention in the usual way, by submitting an application to Amey Occupancy Services via the E1132 application system or email OccupancyServices@AmeyDefenceServices.co.uk. Retention requests will be considered in line with current policy contained within JSP464 Vol 1 Part 1 Chapter 7. Overseas retention requests should be directed to the relevant housing provider.

We are being posted overseas – what actions should I take about schooling for my children?

- It will be important for all involved in planning (case by case) assignments overseas to understand the requirement to comply with current policy for the MOD Assessment of Supportability (MASO) process and adjust timelines to enable this (see JSP 770). The MASO process is likely to be slower than normal given the backlog of submissions and likely slower response times from sending and receiving schools. Families (and sending/receiving units) must ensure that the clearance process begins as early as possible. Parents with children planned to attend an MOD School should approach the school directly; those going to locations not served by MOD Schools should contact CEAS (DCYP-CEAS-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk).

Useful Links

- [HIVE Blog](#) – the official portal for all Army communications to families
- [AFF Website](#) – AFF COVID-19 advice
- [DCYP Website](#) – Directorate of Children and Young People COVID-19 page