

AFF MANIFESTO

The Future of Army Housing

The Army Families Federation believes that in order for the Future Accommodation Model to be fair, the MOD should:

- 1 Widen SFA entitlement to recognise that the traditional definition of family no longer applies.
- 2 Continue to make SFA part of the offer to all mobile Army families.
- 3 Offer all families support to secure appropriate, affordable and timely accommodation.
- 4 Ensure that SFA patch life is maintained as a cornerstone of support to families.
- 5 Ensure no existing cohort sees a reduction in their offer due to the implementation of FAM.
- 6 Ensure that The Help to Buy Offer under the stability option is not geographically curtailed.
- 7 Ensure that families who have bought their own homes and are moved for Service reasons, can still access a full rental allowance.
- 8 Ensure that, at a minimum, the principles of FAM are applied to all directed postings overseas.
- 9 Ensure that families' views are considered in the development of FAM.

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1 AFF recognises the financial burden that not setting a proper definition of 'family' would bring, therefore, evidence from our Big Survey 2016: The Future of Military Housing suggests the following categories around family definition should be:

- Married partners with children/married partners with children from the non-serving partner's previous relationship where the non-serving partner has full custody rights
- Unmarried partners where the soldier has legal parental rights

The caveat to this would be:

- If a soldier has parental rights, but does not live full time with their children, provision under FAM should be made for an additional bedroom to ensure the child is/children are appropriately accommodated
- Children aged 18-23, entitled family members who need care and unmarried partners without children should all be eligible to live in the property

3 AFF defines 'support' as sourcing accommodation when required, empowering families to understand the intricacies of private rental and purchase and legal assistance where required.

AFF defines 'appropriate' as ensuring that factors such as short notice postings, access to welfare services, disruption to education and pet ownership are considered and supported.

4 AFF defines 'patch life' as the community and support that is built around groups of Army families who live in or near to SFA accommodation.

5 Under FAM, those who currently receive housing based on rank will see a significant reduction in their offer.

6 In the AFF FAM survey, 66% said if they were to purchase their own house, they would buy outside of the 50 mile zone.