



Defence  
Infrastructure  
Organisation

## Your Service Family Accommodation

### Running a business in your Service home

Running a business from your home makes sense for many families, with low overheads and the flexibility for childcare, carer and other commitments. However, Service families who wish to use their Service Family Accommodation (SFA) to run a business must seek prior written consent from their Local Service Commander and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) before undertaking commercial activities in their property.

#### NOISE

Whatever business you wish to run in your SFA, you should avoid causing any nuisance to your neighbours and neighbourhood.

You must not make any noise that can be heard outside the property during the evening, night or early morning.

#### GARDEN

If you use your garden as part of your business, such as a play area for child minding, you should manage any risks, as well as limiting damage and noise.

#### SAFETY

You cannot run a business that would require the installation of industrial machinery; require storage of heavy, large, toxic or explosive materials; or undertake car repairs. In addition, you should run any suitable business safely.

#### AVOIDING DAMAGE

You are responsible for limiting damage to your property, either by yourself, your family or visitors - and for taking any action to make repairs.

Also consider specialist Licence to Occupy insurance for SFA - <http://sfiap.org/l2o>

#### IMPROVEMENTS

The MOD will not fund any improvements to your home to run your business, such as enhancements that may be required to meet a particular standard, for example registered child minding.



#### NUISANCE

Businesses or commercial undertakings that could cause a nuisance (such as keeping large numbers of animals); or would result in constant visits to the SFA by members of the public (such as advice services) are not permitted.



#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Generally acceptable activities include the use of SFA for things such as internet and home order catalogue business; kitchenware sales; being a cosmetic representative; and registered child minding.



### How to apply for permission

As well as writing to your Local Service Commander - you should email or write to the Housing Manager via the HASC for permission to run a business if you live in SFA. If you live in SSFA you should contact the Substitute Accommodation helpdesk, who would seek permission from your landlord through the MOD Substitute Accommodation contractor. Contact details for the HASC and helpdesk can be found on the SFA website at [www.gov.uk/dio/sfa](http://www.gov.uk/dio/sfa). Whilst there is no form, you should set out full details of your proposed business and contact details.

You should also note that some businesses also require the permission of the Local Authority and you may need to meet certain criteria, such as hygiene requirements for food based businesses. Finally, if you need to make any changes to your property you should also write to the Housing Manager via the Housing Allocations Service Centre (HASC) for permission to do so, and you will be required to put right any changes you make before your Move Out.

[www.gov.uk/dio/sfa](http://www.gov.uk/dio/sfa)