

Central Advisory Committee on Compensation

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The committee was established under primary legislation governing war pensions in 1921 in the following terms (as amended):

“... the Minister shall constitute a central advisory committee consisting of officers of the ministry (local and central), ex-servicemen and at least one person from one of the committees under section 25 of the Social Security Act 1989 and for the time being in existence to consider such matters as may be put before them for their advice.”

(The committees referred to under section 25 etc are the War Pensions Committees, which are now renamed Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees (VAPC).)

The remit of the committee now is to act as a policy advisory and consultative body for compensation issues.

Role

The role of the committee is to provide: advice on policy issues affecting the War Pensions Scheme and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme including reviews of the control and governance arrangements and to maintain a credible and visible consultative mechanism for these schemes.

The committee does not advise on issues of wider concern to veterans or service personnel, such as welfare, for which other forums exist, or routinely become involved in issues of scheme operation and delivery where, again, other mechanisms are in place.

Function

The committee functions through twice yearly meetings, chaired by the Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans, and correspondence out of committee. In addition, there might be other engagements during the year, the nature of which is driven by the business of the committee and might take the form of a meeting of members, educational workshop, written consultation document or information update.

Details of the committee membership and minutes of meetings are made available on the committee's webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/central-advisory-committee-on-pensions-and-compensation>

When acting as a consultative mechanism, the Chair will aim to ensure that the process follows existing guidance¹ when that is necessary and appropriate. However, it has been recognised that consultation on matters relating to the Armed Forces cannot be the same as in other areas of Government policy, not least because of the role of the Principal Personnel Officers (PPOs). Where issues are specific and/or technical in nature or impact quite a narrow group, consultations may be conducted in short timescales or with limited individuals/groups. Consultation exercises under the committee's interest may be publicised via the web-page.

Membership

Chair:
Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans

Members:
Two members of the network of VAPCs².
A minimum of one and a maximum of six appointments are available to ex-service organisations².
One appointment is available to one of the three Service Families Federations on a three year rotational basis.
The Chairman of the Independent Medical Expert Group, which provides advice in relation to the AFCS.

In addition, three non-member in-service representatives from each of the Principal Personnel Officer areas will attend as well as such officials as the Chair deems appropriate³.

Internal appointments are managed on an ex-officio basis. External appointments are managed on a basis similar to that known as 'nominating bodies' i.e. organisations which have been identified as able to provide a relevant perspective are asked to nominate potential members (at least two from all but the smallest organisations) so that the Minister may make the final choice, in line with the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies. As long as there are a number of ex-service personnel on the Committee, the Chair may appoint members who have not served in the military. Members are expected to attend meetings personally but may exceptionally be represented by another individual from their organisation.

Appointment length will usually be open ended. Appointments will usually end in the event that an individual's role within their representative organisations ends/changes significantly so as no longer to be relevant to the Committee. In any case, the Chair may end an appointment at any time.

Amendment

¹ Consultation and the Ministry of Defence, October 2007

² These members must include ex-service persons, as required in the legislation that established the Committee

³ Usually a senior official from the compensation policy area, an official from the compensation delivery area, a specialist medical representative and a Secretary.

The Terms of Reference may be amended at any time; a member or the Chair may propose a change and the Chair will usually hear views before deciding the amendment. The Chair has the final decision.

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