



Ministry
of Defence

Frequently asked questions: Pre-1967 veterans

Information and answers on the review, support, services and restorative measures available for LGBT Veterans.

What restorative measures are being extended to pre-1967 veterans?

Veterans impacted by historic criminal and Service law prohibiting same-sex sexual activity can apply to have administrative discharges qualified, reduced rank restored, Certificates of Service re-issued, and former officers may apply to have Service details published in The Gazette, as part of the official record.

How do I apply for non-financial restorative measures?

You can check which restorative measures you are eligible for by reading the Applying for restorative measures information guide at [Pre1967 veterans: Applying for restorative measures](#).

The guide contains detailed information on the measures, eligibility and expected timelines.

Those affected can apply for restorative measures by completing the relevant application form at [Pre1967 veterans: Applying for restorative measures](#).

How long will it take to receive my restorative measures?

You will receive confirmation of your application by email or post. The time it will take to process your application depends on the measures you're applying for, but you should be contacted by Defence within six months of applying. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to provide updates on applications before this point.

Can pre-1967 veterans have historical convictions for same-sex sexual offences Disregarded?

Yes. Defence supports the extension to the Home Office's Disregard and Pardon scheme, which enables anyone convicted or cautioned for consensual same-sex sexual activity under the repealed laws to apply to have them 'disregarded' – meaning it would be wiped from their criminal records and not required to be disclosed.

The extended scheme covers any repealed service offence under which service personnel were convicted or cautioned for having engaged in sexual activity with persons of the same sex.

Affected veterans are invited to confirm their eligibility and apply for a Disregard by completing the Home Office's application form and sending it to [Disregards Case Working Team](#) by email or post.

Can pre-1967 veterans who forfeited their medals have these returned?

Yes. An announcement on 16 February 2021 invited any former service personnel who had forfeited medals as a result of disciplinary action pre-2000 relating to their sexual orientation to apply to have them restored. It remains a requirement that anyone with a conviction must first have obtained a disregard from the Home Office.

We invite any personnel who were discharged from service due to their sexuality, to [apply to have their forfeited medals restored](#) once any related convictions have been Disregarded.

What is an Administrative Discharge Qualification?

Qualification of administrative discharge means those discharged prior to 1967, solely based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, can now apply to have this qualified with the wording 'Discharge was pursuant to a law which has now been abolished and is now considered unfair'.

The qualification of administrative discharge will remove any fault from veterans; accurately recording historic law as the sole reason for discharge.

What is the eligibility for an Administrative Discharge Qualification?

Veterans can have an Administrative Discharge qualified if they were administratively discharged solely because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. More information can be found on [Pre1967 veterans: Applying for restorative measures](#).

To note, veterans who received an Administrative Discharge because of a conviction for same-sex sexual activity will first need to apply for a disregard of their conviction/s through the Home Office's Disregard and Pardon scheme. Affected veterans are invited to apply for a Disregard by completing the Home Office's application form and sending it to [Disregard Case Working Team](#) by email or post.

What happens if I am successful in gaining an Administrative Discharge Qualification?

Successful Administrative Discharge Qualification for pre-1967 veterans will mean records held by the Ministry of Defence will be updated with the wording 'Discharge was pursuant to a law which has now been abolished and is now considered unfair'.

Please note that due to changes required to underlying regulations, updating your Service record may not take place until May 2025. However, you will be informed on the outcome of your application as soon as possible.

I left Service prior to 1967 due to my sexual orientation/gender identity, but was not administratively discharged, can I get my discharge reason updated?

Defence is only able to change the reason for discharge for those that were administratively discharged because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I did not receive an administrative discharge, but was instructed to resign due to my sexual orientation or gender identity?

Administrative discharges include Officers who were instructed to resign as a result of an administrative process.

What does restoration of rank/commission mean?

Restoration of rank will ensure veterans who had their rank reduced as part of their dismissal or discharge due to their sexual orientation or gender identity prior to 1967 back to the rank they rightfully earned in service. It will also enable officers, who had their commission terminated, to have their commission retired, enabling them to use their retired rank in correspondence.

The restoration of rank and commission aims to restore veterans' pride in their Service, and recognise the achievements made during their Service.

What is the eligibility for restoration of rank/commission?

Veterans can have their commission or rank restored to what it was immediately before dismissal or discharge if they were demoted as a consequence of discharge or dismissal based solely on sexual orientation or gender identity. More information can be found on [Pre1967 veterans: Applying for restorative measures](#).

Please note that veterans who were reduced in rank/commission as part of an administrative discharge will also need to apply to have their discharge qualified, enabling records to show that the discharge was due to historic law and was not the fault of the veteran, before their rank/commission can be restored.

What happens if I am successful, and rank/commission is restored?

Successful restoration will mean the rank/commission will be restored on records held by the Ministry of Defence for the veteran to the rank that was held immediately prior to reduction.

Veterans will then be able receive a new Certificate of Service, with their rank that was rightfully earned in service. Additionally, Officers only can apply to have their Service details published in The Gazette, as an alternative to reinstating them to Service Retired Lists, as these are no longer published.

Are pre-1967 veterans eligible for financial recognition?

No, the Government acknowledges that LGBT veterans who served prior to 1967 may have had similar experiences to those who served under the Ban, however, Armed Forces policy was in line with criminal law at that time. The LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme intends to provide recognition for the harm caused by the policy Defence upheld from 1967 to 2000, when same sex sexual acts were essentially decriminalised in civilian law.