



Useful link: [Veterans of the LGBT Ban: Financial Recognition Scheme - GOV.UK](#)

The objective of the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme (FR Scheme) is to make payments to eligible applicants, to recognise those who served under and suffered during their Service as a consequence of the Ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces. The scheme will be open for applications for 24 months (13th December 2024 until 12th December 2026). Payments will be exempt from income tax and disregarded for means tested benefits. Applicants are advised to retain copies of their FR Scheme Decision Letters and/or their Determination Outcome letters which may be requested by HMRC or DWP.

Who can apply for a Financial Recognition Payment?

To be eligible to apply for a Financial Recognition Payment, the applicant has to have:

- served in HM Armed Forces during the period of the Ban: 27 July 1967 to 11 January 2000.
- been affected by the Ban on LGBT personnel whilst serving in HM Armed Forces.

Types of financial recognition payments

There are two types of Financial Recognition payments, you can apply to either, or both:

- **LGBT Dismissed or Discharged Payment (LGBT DD Payment):** This payment will be awarded to those who were dismissed or administratively discharged, including Officers who were ordered or instructed to resign or retire by their respective Service Board, solely on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity during the Ban. This will be a flat rate payment of £50,000 for those who are eligible.
- **LGBT Impact Payment:** This payment will be available to those who fulfil the criteria in one of the levels, between 1 and 3, as outlined in the LGBT Impact Payment eligibility criteria. The level of the LGBT Impact Payment will be determined by the Independent Panel (IP), based on the details and supporting documentation submitted within the application, describing what the applicant experienced during their service in HM Armed Forces. Those who are eligible could be awarded between £1,000-£20,000.

Applications for either LGBT DD or Impact payments will be processed in parallel; LGBT DD Payment applicants are informed via a Decision letter and Impact Payment applicants are informed via a Determination Outcome letter. These letters will be sent explaining the amount that will be paid and requesting applicants to confirm their bank details.

Application process

The Automated System has been streamlined to make this process as straightforward and user friendly as possible and this can be accessed through the Defence Gateway Platform. The Automated System has been designed so that applicants can check the progress of their application at any time, and it will be used to communicate with applicants directly. We recommend using the online application process where possible. You can find a guide explaining how to apply on the LGBT FRS GOV.UK page. Alternatively, if you chose to apply via a hard copy, you can request this by contacting the Veterans UK Helpline using the contact details listed below.

What do I need to apply?

We encourage you to include any supporting documents or evidence with your application. If you do not have any supporting documents, or choose not to provide them, please include as much detail as possible in your written account. We recognise that completing the application may be difficult for some and could trigger painful memories. Veterans UK and charities Fighting with Pride and the Royal British Legion have teamed up to provide support to those applying, their details are as listed below. For applicants who lack mental or physical capacity, applicants who are or become terminally ill or applicants who die after submitting an application, please refer to the Scheme Rules at the above link.

FAQs

What is the process to apply for the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme?

Applying for a Financial Recognition Scheme payment online is a two-step process, as outlined in the Scheme Rules which can be found at the above link.

- **Step one** – involves registration for a Defence Gateway account to confirm you served in HM Armed Forces during the period of the Ban (27 July 1967 to 11 January 2000). More detail can be found in the Guide: 'How to Apply for a Financial Recognition Payment' which can be found at the above link.
- **Step two** – having obtained a Defence Gateway account, when you sign in you will be taken to the Automated System where you can complete your application. The App allows you to fill in your personal details and information about your Service, select which payment type(s) you want to apply for, provide a written account of your experiences and upload any supporting evidence/documents. The Automated System will autosave your application as it is completed, and so if you need to take a break, the application will be saved for you to come back to it later.

Hard Copy Applications – if you would prefer to submit a hard copy application, you should contact **Veterans UK Helpline** who will send out a hard copy application form with a Freepost envelope - details can be found below.

How do I register for a Defence Gateway account?

A link to the LGBT FR Scheme Defence Gateway Registration form can be found at the above link. This form will allow you to register for a Defence Gateway Account. This registration process allows us to identify you and confirm that you served during the period of the Ban. Once your Defence Gateway account is approved, the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme will send your Defence

Gateway sign-in details to you via email. Don't try to access the Defence Gateway until you have been sent your account details.

How do I reset my password?

If you have forgotten your Defence Gateway password and need to reset your password or are having trouble accessing your Defence Gateway account, please contact the LGBT FR Scheme via email LGBT-FRScheme@mod.gov.uk.

What do I need to include in my written account?

The focus of the written account should detail the experiences you had during your Service in HM Armed Forces as a direct result of the Ban. There is no rush to complete your application form, and we are encouraging all applicants to take their time. Responding to questions contained in the Application form may be disturbing and trigger painful memories. If you need support during this process, please contact the organisations as listed below.

Can you clarify who is entitled to a DD payment?

Individuals who were dismissed or administratively discharged can apply for a Dismissed or Discharged (DD) Payment, which includes Officers who were instructed to retire or resign by their respective Service Board as a result of an administrative process because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The DD Payment will also include individuals who submitted their notice to terminate but who were subsequently administratively discharged by their Service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Individuals who were medically discharged because of their sexual orientation or gender identity will also be eligible for the DD payment. Individuals who left at the end of their contract, or who purchased their discharge as of right, or who opted not to extend their contracts, or who left the Service at the end of their notice period having submitted their notice to terminate their contracts, would not qualify for the Dismissed or Discharged Payment but can apply for the LGBT Impact Payment.

For those who submitted a request to terminate their service but are unsure under what process they actually left service, it is recommended that these applicants apply for a DD Payment as the eligibility process will check service records to determine under what process they did leave service.

How will applications be assessed?

Dismissed or Discharged Payment assessments will adhere to set criteria which can be found in the Scheme Rules. This criterion will ensure all those who were dismissed or discharged during the Ban as a direct result of their sexual orientation or gender identity can receive the flat-rate payment. These assessments will be carried out by Defence using all evidence available within Service records alongside any supporting evidence submitted by the applicant.

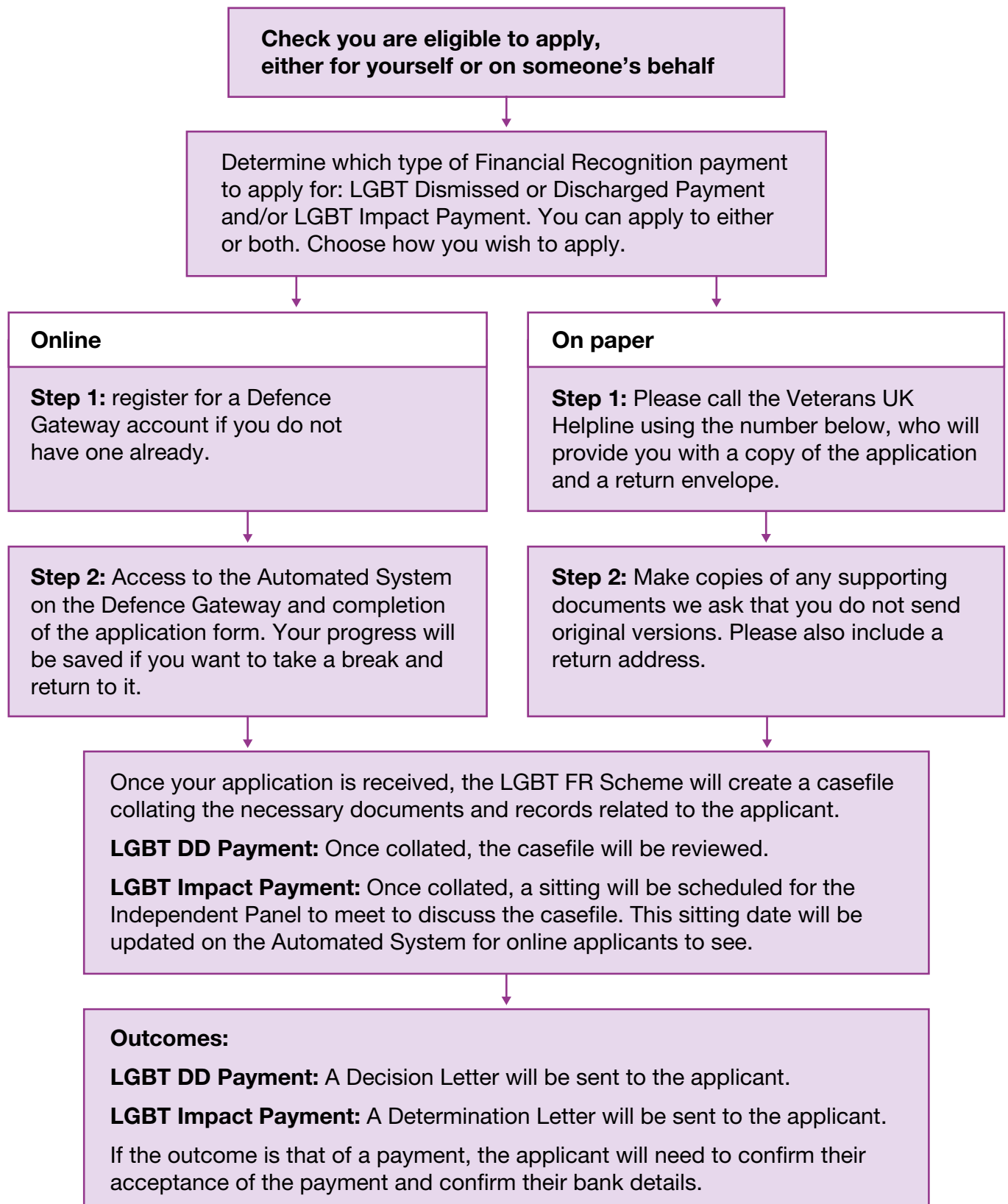
LGBT Impact Payments will be open to anyone who feels they suffered from the Ban. Assessments will be made by an Independent Panel, separate from and independent of the Ministry of Defence using any evidence available within Service records and testimony provided by the applicant. Impact Payments will be assessed based on 3 tariff levels, each with a broad payment band, to ensure payments given are proportionate to the impact on the veteran during service, according to the Independent Panel.

How long will it take for applicants to receive payment?

It is difficult to provide an exact timeline for receiving Financial Recognition payments, as it depends on the payment(s) applied for and the ease of accessing the supporting evidence. However, applicants will be updated on each step of the process and this Government understands the need for timeliness in delivering this important recognition.

Claim Journey

The evidence gathering will be the largest part of the process as this will require information being collected from a variety of sources, including historical records.



Help, guidance and support

Royal British Legion



Email:

info@britishlegion.org.uk

Phone:

0808 802 8080

Fighting with Pride



Email:

Info@fightingwithpride.org.uk

Contact Form:

<http://www.fightingwithpride.org.uk/get-in-touch>

Veterans UK Helpline



Email:

veterans-uk@mod.gov.uk

Telephone (overseas):

+44 1253 866 043

Freephone (UK only):

0808 191 4218