

Armed Forces Pension Re-employment & Abatement

Thinking of rejoining the Armed Forces? Understand what could happen to your pension and other benefits before you return



RE-EMPLOYMENT AND YOUR PENSION

If you rejoin the Regular or Reserve Armed Forces after leaving, benefits from previous service may be affected. The result depends on your scheme, benefits already in payment, type of return and break in service.

WHAT DETERMINES THE OUTCOME?

◆ SCHEME

The pension scheme or schemes in which you hold benefits

£ BENEFITS IN PAYMENT

Whether you receive a pension or Early Departure Payment

👤 TYPE OF SERVICE

Whether you rejoin Regular or Reserve service

🕒 BREAK IN SERVICE

The length of time between leaving and returning

All personnel rejoining from 1 April 2022 build new pension benefits in AFPS 15, but benefits already earned in earlier schemes remain protected.

PENSION ABATEMENT



WHAT IS ABATEMENT?

Abatement is a reduction to a pension already in payment following re-employment. It can apply to certain legacy Armed Forces pensions, including AFPS 75 and AFPS 05/RFPS 05.

⇄ WHEN IT MAY APPLY

Abatement may apply where your new Service salary plus pension in payment exceeds the salary you were earning on your last day of service, adjusted by CPI where applicable

15 AFPS 15 POSITION

AFPS 15 pension is not itself subject to abatement, but an AFPS 15 pension in payment can be included when calculating abatement of a legacy pension.

THE AFPS 15 28-DAY RULE

There is an important 28-day rule if you rejoin after an AFPS 15 pension becomes payable:

≤ REJOIN WITHIN 28 DAYS

Your AFPS 15 pension ceases to be payable and any money paid will have to be returned.

> REJOIN AFTER 28 DAYS

Your AFPS 15 pension normally remains in payment and a new AFPS 15 pension record is created.

EARLY DEPARTURE PAYMENT

EDP is not a pension and is not abated, but re-employment can still affect it.

05 EDP 05

Monthly EDP income stops during most types of re-employment and some of the original lump sum may need to be repaid.

15 EDP 15

Rejoining Regular service gives you a choice on how to treat EDP 15. Rejoining as a Reservist has no effect on EDP 15 in payment.

OTHER BENEFITS TO CHECK

◆ RESETTLEMENT GRANTS	£ PREVIOUS REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS
👤 ILL-HEALTH PENSION BENEFITS	🕒 CONTINUITY OF SERVICE
📄 BENEFITS AFFECTED BY 2015 PENSION REMEDY (MCCLOUD)	The rules differ depending on your scheme, type of re-employment and individual circumstances.

✓	BEFORE YOU REJOIN Check the pension consequences before accepting re-employment. Know which pension scheme(s) you have benefits in and whether you currently receive a pension, EDP or other Armed Forces payment. Re-employment can affect both benefits already in payment and benefits you build in the future#.
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FIND OUT MORE	• https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pensions-and-compensation-for-veterans • Phone: 0800 085 3600 (UK freephone) • Email: DBS-JPAC@dbspv.mod.uk
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