

CHANGES TO SETTLEMENT FEES FOR NON-UK SERVICE PERSONNEL

Questions & Answers

I am due to discharge from the Regular Armed Forces soon. Will I be charged a fee if I apply to remain in the UK after my service?

The policy change is expected to take place this Spring. Those who apply for settlement on or after the implementation date will benefit from the fee waiver.

If you apply for settlement before that date you will be expected to pay the fee. If you apply after the policy has been implemented and providing you meet the suitability requirements you will not be charged.

The implementation of the fee waiver requires legislation to pass through Parliament: it is not possible for those who apply before this happens to have their fees waived.

Further guidance will be issued to inform personnel in due course.

How do I apply for settlement?

There is already guidance on how to apply for settlement.

[UK Visas and Immigration - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-settle-in-uk-as-former-member-of-hm-forces-setaf)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-settle-in-uk-as-former-member-of-hm-forces-setaf>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-armed-forces>

The Home Office is currently in the process of amending their on-line forms to reflect the changes when the amendment comes into effect.

Unit Welfare Officers (and the RN/RM and RAF equivalents) can also help to sign post SP to relevant forms and sources of advice and guidance.

The Families Federations can provide further help and guidance on immigration issues.

How much will it cost to apply for settlement to remain in the UK after my discharge?

If your settlement application is submitted after the policy change has been made, and you have at least six years' service, or have been discharged due to an illness or injury attributable to service, you will not be charged a fee. However, if your application has been submitted prior to the policy change or you have not served for at least six years or do not have an illness or injury attributable to service you will have to pay the current fee of £2,389 (FY21/22).

How do I ensure that I am not charged a fee for my settlement application?

The Home Office is currently in the process of amending their on-line forms.

I have already submitted a settlement application. Will I be able to get a refund?

No. If you have already submitted a settlement application before the policy has been changed you will not be entitled to a refund. Until the necessary legislation has passed through Parliament, it is not possible for the Home Office to apply the waiver.

I have served four years and want to apply for discharge. Will I have to pay the settlement fee?

Yes. If you have served for four years and wish to remain in the UK following your discharge you will have to pay the fee when you submit your settlement application.

I have served six years and want to apply for discharge. Will I have to pay the settlement fee?

No. Providing you meet all the other suitability requirements that would entitle you to remain in the UK, you will not need to pay the settlement fee if you submit your application after the policy change is implemented. You will need to pay the fee if you submit your application before then.

I would prefer to apply for British citizenship. Will you pay for my citizenship application?

No. Becoming a British citizen is regarded as a personal choice that goes beyond regularising immigration status and you would be required to pay for your own application.

Why won't you pay for me to become a British citizen?

Becoming a British citizen is regarded as a personal choice that goes beyond simply regularising your immigration status. In addition, some countries do not allow their citizens to hold dual citizenship, whereas non-UK personnel who meet the eligibility criteria can apply for settlement on discharge .

Will my family be charged a fee if they apply for settlement?

There is no change to the charges to settlement fees for non-UK family members. The charge for settlement fees remains the responsibility of the Service Person or their family member. Non-UK family members of Armed Forces personnel can apply for settlement once they have completed an initial five-year period in the UK of limited leave.

I have only served two years and I am due to be medically discharged due to an injury I received during my Service. Will I have to pay the settlement fee if I wish to remain in the UK.

No. If your settlement application is submitted after the policy change has been made, under the revised policy if you have received an injury or have an illness which is attributable to your service and providing that you meet all the other suitability requirements, you will not have to pay the fee when you submit a settlement application.

I am a veteran who left the UK Armed Forces over 10 years ago but I have not regularised my immigration status. Will I be eligible for the fee waiver?

Providing you are currently living in the UK, served for at least six years or were medically discharged due to an injury or illness which was attributable to your service and meet all other suitability requirements, you will be eligible for the fee waiver when you submit an application to regularise your immigration status.

What happens if my application to settle is turned down?

Discharged members of the Armed Forces who make an unsuccessful application for Indefinite Leave to Remain are entitled to an Administrative Review of the decision. Details on how to do this are outlined in the Home Office decision letter sent to the applicant.