

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-17-1289 - Armed Forces Covenant
Date: 27 September 2017 15:51:00
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request of 4 September 2017. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

I am seeking information under the 2000 Freedom of Information Act about the Council's support to the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC).

a. Does the Council give priority to former members of the Armed Forces seeking council housing in the your area. Can you provide the policy document to support this.

No, ACC does not give priority to former members of the Armed Forces seeking council housing in the area. As this is the case, there is no policy document.

b. What assistance, does the Council provide to former members of the Armed Forces in your Council area, who are seeking employment. Can you provide the policy document to support this.

Armed Forces veterans are among the priority groups identified as being eligible for the Employability Pipeline Progress Through Positive Partnerships project. This project matches eligible clients with keyworkers, who work with them to draw up an individual action plan detailing steps which need to be taken to enable a client to enter employment, training, or education. It provides a very broad range of funded training and support provision available to eligible participants. Aberdeen City Council is liaising with the local branch of the Armed Services Advice Project in this regard.

In addition to this, ACC is a member of the Employability Training Providers Forum, which amongst other things discusses funding opportunities for employability projects and programmes, shares best practice, and discusses emerging issues – all with the view of supporting people into employment.

ACC also works with partners to deliver job fairs with a view to helping people find work and is a member of the Local Employability Partnership, which also comprises Skills Development Scotland and the Department for Work and Pensions.

ACC would seek to signpost any armed forces veterans towards the most appropriate support organisations should any approach be made seeking help in seeking employment.

With regards to the policy document, please refer to the following online documents:

The [Community Covenant between Aberdeen City Council and The Armed Forces Community in Aberdeen](#) is available here:

https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/web/files/councillors/CPP_Information_Bulletin_200213.pdf

The Communities Housing and Infrastructure Committee approved the Employability Pipeline

Progress Through Positive Partnerships project when it met in August 2016. The report can be accessed here:

<https://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/documents/g3853/Public%20reports%20pack%2025th-Aug-016%2014.00%20Communities%20Housing%20and%20Infrastructure%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

The Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee approved the creation of the Employability Training Providers Forum in September 2012. The committee report can be accessed here: <https://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/documents/s21832/EPI.12.169%20-%20Employability%20Forum.pdf>

c. What provision does the Council provide in the area of mental health for former members of the Armed Forces who reside in your area.

ACC does not provide or commission anything specifically for armed forces personnel who reside in the area, however, we would signpost to generic mental health services that would assist.

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership commission a range of services to people with mental health problems. These include residential services, supported living, suicide prevention services, 1:1 services for people who start to develop their own support mechanisms, employability services, advocacy services, care at home, housing support services, befriending and a walk in service for people in distress.

People would be signposted to their GP and organisations such as Penumbra (www.penumbra.org.uk). Penumbra run sessions across a number of venues in Aberdeen. These sessions are open to anyone and focus on wellbeing and managing their health.

The Social Work Duty Team can be contacted on 0800 7315520 for advice.

Can you provide the policy document.

ACC does not have a policy in relation to Mental Health Support for former members of the Armed Forces.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **the policy document with regards to a. and c.** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Buchan
Information Compliance Officer

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

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