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# POPPYSCOTLAND MANIFESTO

2026 SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION



## Foreword from Helen Owen

### CHAIR OF POPPYSCOTLAND

Over the past four years Scotland has been through many challenges, not the least of which include the continuing economic, health and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the invasion of Ukraine, and rising tensions and violence in the Middle East. Although defence policy is reserved to the UK Government, Scotland hosts significant Armed Forces bases such as HMNB Clyde, RAF Lossiemouth and Leuchars Station, and is home to thousands of veterans and their families, and bereaved families, so the effect of the world events and UK policies are felt deeply here.

According to the 2022 Scottish Census, 176,084 people in Scotland reported that they had served in the UK Armed Forces<sup>i</sup>. The councils with the highest proportion of veterans in their local population were Moray, Angus, Argyll and Bute, Fife, Perth and Kinross, and Highland. Additionally, as of April 2025, there were almost 10,000 UK Regular Serving personnel based in Scotland<sup>ii</sup>. **The majority of the Armed Forces community will not need our support, but for those that do, Poppyscotland is here to help.**

In the past year, Poppyscotland has provided support to 991 beneficiary households in Scotland through our Casework and Specialist Services. Further to our direct support, Poppyscotland has provided a total of 1,400 grants awarded totalling £934,825. These grants helped to fund household items and repairs, arrears, energy costs, mobility home adaptations and much more. In 2025 we awarded 44% more in grant funds to individuals than we did in 2020. This is largely due to high inflation over the last few years which has driven up the cost of living and expansion of our Casework and Specialist teams.

**Last year, alongside the Royal British Legion (RBL) we launched our 10-year strategy focussing on the three pillars of Connect, Remember and Support. We aim to bring the Armed Forces community to connect with one another, and with wider society; remember those who have served, and support those in need<sup>iii</sup>.** We are pleased to say that last year, we launched our dedicated Benefits, Debt and Money Advice Service in Scotland. The service provides free, confidential advice and support to appeal benefits decisions and gives advice for those in unmanageable debt. RBL and Poppyscotland provide a contact centre and urgent support service available 12 hours a day, 7 days a week; an independent living advice service; an outreach service supporting the most vulnerable in our community; Recovery Services for those who are wounded, injured or sick, and an Admiral Nurse Service which provides specialised support for Armed Forces families affected by dementia.

**The 2026 election is an important opportunity for the new Scottish Parliament to prioritise the needs of the Armed Forces community.** In this manifesto, we outline five key areas: the expansion of the Armed Forces Covenant, Education, Childcare, Health and Housing. By working with all parties and governments, we can help build a Scotland that is "the destination of choice"<sup>iv</sup> for veterans and their families, support those currently serving, and the bereaved.

**Helen Owen**  
*Chair of Poppyscotland*



## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### Keeping the Covenant Promise

-  **RECOMMENDATION 1:** The Scottish Government must implement an accessible, dedicated programme of promotion activity to support the Armed Forces Covenant. To ensure the expanded Covenant Duty is implemented to its full effect, the Scottish Government must apply appropriate resource, guidance and robust evaluation mechanisms to measure impact across all relevant policy areas and public services.
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-  **RECOMMENDATION 2:** The Scottish Government must provide a clear role description, and robust training, to Armed Forces Champions across statutory services in Scotland. To improve consistency, the Scottish Government must also introduce this role in every department and public body that is subject to the Covenant Duty, where there is currently no established position.

### Supporting Armed Forces Families in Scotland

-  **RECOMMENDATION 3:** The Scottish Government must revise the Additional Support for Learning code of practice to address the needs of mobile Armed Forces children, including those who move between the different education systems in the UK and overseas.
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-  **RECOMMENDATION 4:** The Scottish Government must uphold the Armed Forces Covenant by working with other devolved governments and the UK Government to enable harmonisation of policy and procedures to ensure mobile Armed Forces children with additional support needs are not disadvantaged.
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-  **RECOMMENDATION 5:** The Scottish Government must provide ringfenced funding for Service children with additional support needs to effectively mitigate the challenges associated with Armed Forces life.
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-  **RECOMMENDATION 6:** The Scottish Government must ensure that local authorities consult with the Armed Forces community to incorporate the childcare requirements of local Armed Forces families when developing Children's Services Plans, and reflect this obligation in statutory guidance.





## Recognising unique healthcare need in the Armed Forces community in Scotland

-  **RECOMMENDATION 7:** The Scottish Government must expand Veterans First Point services to all health boards across Scotland to guarantee consistent access to informed health support for veterans.

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-  **RECOMMENDATION 8:** The Scottish Government must establish and implement an integrated, trauma-informed mental health pathway to reduce the need for veterans to repeatedly recount distressing experiences.

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-  **RECOMMENDATION 9:** The Scottish Government must actively promote participation in the GP Armed Forces and Veterans Recognition Scheme to improve uptake and consistency.

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-  **RECOMMENDATION 10:** The Scottish Government must introduce a national training programme for all frontline NHS and social care staff in Scotland to identify and support patients with Armed Forces backgrounds, including Service families and the bereaved community.

## Meeting homelessness need in Scotland

-  **RECOMMENDATION 11:** The Scottish Government must build on its commitment to tackle and prevent homelessness for those who have previously served in the Armed Forces, by fully implementing the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Pathway.





## Key Statistics - Scotland Census 2022

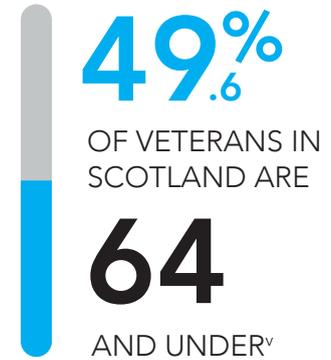
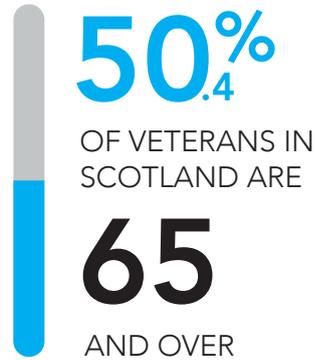
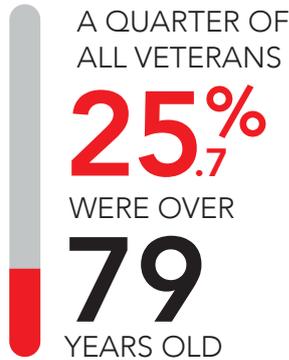
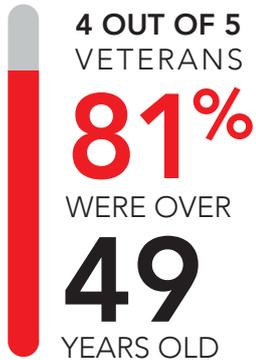
IN 2022

# 176,084

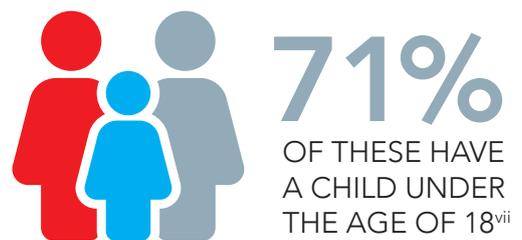
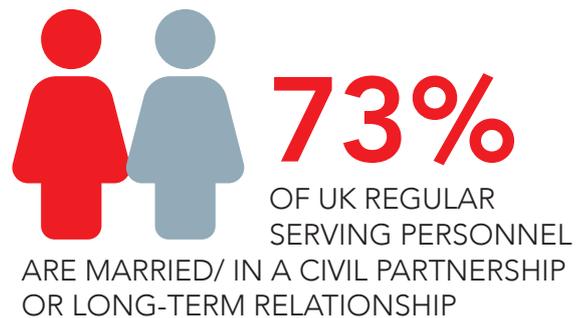
people in Scotland reported that they had previously served in the UK Armed Forces (3.9% of usual residents aged 16 years and over).

The councils with the highest proportion of veterans in their local population were

Moray <b>9%</b>	Fife <b>5.6%</b>
Angus <b>6.1%</b>	Perth and Kinross <b>5.4%</b>
Argyll and Bute <b>5.9%</b>	Highland <b>5.3%</b>



### UK ARMED FORCES VETERANS IN SCOTLAND





## Keeping the Covenant Promise

### THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT DUTY

The Armed Forces Covenant<sup>viii</sup> was introduced as part of the Armed Forces Act 2011 after a successful campaign led by the Royal British Legion and Poppyscotland. The Covenant outlines the nation's obligation that the Armed Forces community must not face any disadvantage due to their Service and provides special consideration for those who have given the most, such as the injured or bereaved.

The Armed Forces Act 2021 introduced a legal duty ('the Covenant Duty') to give 'due regard' to the promise of the Covenant, applicable to local authorities and bodies providing health, housing and education services. However, it did not cover any central or devolved government departments, or any other policy areas, within the duty.

In June 2025, Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed plans to deliver the extended Duty, stating that "all areas of government will for the first time have to have 'due regard' for the Armed Forces Covenant." Devolved governments are included in new plans to extend the Covenant Duty, as well as 11 new policy areas<sup>1</sup>, including employment, justice, welfare benefits and social care.

<sup>1</sup> Health, housing and education will remain within scope of the extended Covenant Duty, taking the total number of policy areas within scope to 14.

Expanding the Covenant Duty to cover a wider range of policy matters throughout the UK and devolved Governments will enable a more comprehensive and consistent approach to supporting the Armed Forces community, ensuring all layers of government plan and deliver policy and services according to the Covenant principles.

In Scotland, all local authorities have signed the Armed Forces Covenant. However, implementation remains inconsistent owing to varied levels of responsibility and statutory requirements under the Covenant, and existing Covenant Duty. The Covenant commitment in Scotland is primarily upheld by Armed Forces Champions, the Scottish Veterans Commissioner, and wider third sector activity.

Whilst Covenant expansion will be spearheaded by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the Scottish Government must ensure that policy and guidance reflect the unique needs of the Armed Forces community through paying due regard to the Covenant principles. It is essential that appropriate resource and robust evaluation mechanisms are in place to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant, and Legal Duty, to its full effect.

### RECOMMENDATION 1

**The Scottish Government must implement an accessible, dedicated programme of promotion activity on the Armed Forces Covenant. To ensure the Covenant Duty is implemented to its full effect, the Scottish Government must apply appropriate resource, guidance and robust evaluation mechanisms to measure impact across all relevant policy areas and public services.**



*“ In Scotland, all local authorities have signed the Armed Forces Covenant. ”*

## ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONS

Armed Forces Champions are a keystone in the support landscape for the Armed Forces community and play a vital role in fulfilling the Government's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant across a variety of government bodies and statutory services.

These roles are typically named members of staff within statutory services such as local authorities, NHS Boards and government departments, who act as the first point of contact for staff who have queries about working with members of the Armed Forces community and their families. Notably, Social Security Scotland, Scotland's agency for managing devolved benefits, has no Champions and currently there are no plans to introduce them<sup>ix</sup>.

RBL and Poppyscotland have found the Armed Forces

Champion role hugely beneficial when advocating for and resolving issues faced by the Armed Forces community, with research indicating an 'ever-increasing familiarity' with the role amongst the Armed Forces community and other key stakeholders<sup>x</sup>.

However, those supporting the Armed Forces community have found that there can be a lack of consistency in the standard of support Champions are able to provide. For example, feedback suggests some Department for Work and Pensions Champions have been effective in supporting veterans to challenge complex claims and secure their full entitlement to certain welfare benefits, but in other cases, inconsistent and sometimes incorrect advice has adversely impacted veterans' access to statutory support.

### RECOMMENDATION 2

**The Scottish Government must provide a clear role description, and robust training, to Armed Forces Champions across statutory services in Scotland. To improve consistency, the Scottish Government must also introduce this role in every department and public body that is subject to the Covenant Duty, where there is currently no established position.**





# Supporting Armed Forces families in Scotland

## SERVICE CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS (ASN)

Children from Armed Forces families<sup>2</sup> are significantly more likely to have frequent school moves than their peers. This means moving not only between local authorities, but between the different education systems in the four nations of the UK and even overseas. Children with parents serving in the Armed Forces can experience long periods of separation, for example, due to operational deployments. This can involve uncertainty about deployment dates, concern for their parents' safety whilst they are away and an adjustment period on their return.

The categorisation of special or additional needs and thresholds for support differ considerably across the four nations of the UK and overseas, beyond different terminology. There is also variation in the entitlement and nature of statutory plans for children with special or additional education needs or disabilities. The different education systems impact substantially on Service children moving schools across the UK, and current statutory guidance, and the Additional Support for Learning code of practice, does not provide sufficient direction to mitigate these differences.

Statutory guidance on additional support for learning in Scotland<sup>xi</sup> recognises the Armed Forces status of families as being a potential cause of additional support needs but otherwise makes no provision for children from Armed Forces families. Additionally, the Scottish Government offers no specific funding mechanisms, such as Service Pupil Premium, to support children from Armed Forces families, unlike other countries in the UK.

The increased number of school moves experienced by Service children can cause disruption to learning and development. The transfer of children's information is

often insufficient and problematic. The long waiting times for assessments can mean that they may not be completed ahead of a new assignment. Existing statutory plans and diagnoses are sometimes not accepted by new local authorities, with support not being replicated on moving. In some situations, the overall effect is that Service children with special or additional needs or disability can miss many months, or years, of education and wider support.

Service children tell us that accessing emotional and wellbeing support is important, especially during moves and deployment.<sup>xii</sup> The mobility and unpredictability associated with Armed Forces life can be particularly challenging for Service children with additional support needs. These needs require tailored support that is informed by the experiences of Armed Forces life.

Families need accessible and comprehensive information to help them secure support in new locations. Inconsistency in the understanding of schools and local authorities about the unique challenges presented by the Armed Forces lifestyle is frequently reported. Crucially, there is often very little understanding amongst practitioners in Scotland about the education systems of other UK countries where Service children may have lived previously.

Under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, children from Armed Forces families have the same right to family life and education as all other children. Forces children tell us that they would like their education to be as disrupted as little as possible and that they should get extra help if they are to achieve their best<sup>xiii</sup>. Unfortunately, despite the promises of the Armed Forces Covenant, this provision is not always in place.

<sup>2</sup> The Service Children's Progression Alliance (SciP) and Service Children in State Schools (SCiSS) in England define a Service child as "A person whose parent, or carer, serves in the regular Armed Forces, or as a reservist, or has done at any point during the first 25 years of that person's life."

### RECOMMENDATION 3

**The Scottish Government must revise the Additional Support for Learning code of practice to address the needs of mobile Armed Forces children, including those who move between the different education systems in the UK and overseas.**

## RECOMMENDATION 4

**The Scottish Government must uphold the Armed Forces Covenant by working with other devolved governments and the UK Government to enable harmonisation of policy and procedures to ensure mobile Armed Forces children with additional support needs are not disadvantaged.**

## RECOMMENDATION 5

**The Scottish Government must provide ringfenced funding for Service children with additional support needs to effectively mitigate the challenges associated with Armed Forces life.**

### CHILDCARE

The availability of good quality and affordable childcare is vitally important to many families, supporting parental employment and positive outcomes for children. The unique nature of Armed Forces life presents additional challenges for families in accessing appropriate childcare. Frequent moves due to assignments mean that serving personnel and their families can live long distances from the support of extended family and friends. Service life is highly unpredictable, involving unsocial hours and long periods of separation – for example, due to the operational deployment of serving parents. The sufficiency of childcare for Armed Forces families is essential in supporting not only their wellbeing, but the operational effectiveness of the Armed Forces.

There is a statutory requirement for local authorities in Scotland to consult on how early learning and childcare is made available, including with parents from the Armed Forces community<sup>xiv</sup>. Additionally, the interests of people supported by children's services must be represented in local authorities' Children's Services Plans.

As of April 2025, there were 9,730 Regular serving personnel based in Scotland<sup>xv</sup>. Of Regular serving personnel who are married/in a civil partnership, 71% have a child under the age of 18<sup>xvi</sup>. Of those families with at least one child under five, around seven in ten require early years (0-4 years) childcare. Of those families with school-aged children, over half required formal childcare such as breakfast/after school clubs in the last 12 months.

In 2022, the Scottish Government committed to taking a place-based approach to empower and support involvement in the design of childcare services in communities<sup>xvii</sup>. Some Armed Forces bases in Scotland are located in rural areas, where families can find it difficult to access suitable childcare. Armed Forces families living in Scotland are considerably more dissatisfied with the availability of childcare than those in England<sup>xviii</sup> suggesting that their unique needs may not have been fully considered. Families highlight long waiting lists when moving to new locations which can impact on decisions to accompany the serving partner to Scotland.

Despite the implementation of the Ministry of Defence initiative *Wraparound Childcare*, when both parents are serving, the shortage of childcare continues to cause significant challenges in meeting the unique demands of service in the Armed Forces. A lack of childcare can also impact negatively on the employment and careers of spouses and partners of serving personnel, which can affect financial wellbeing. The impact of Service life on family and personal life remains the top factor personnel cite as the reason they intend to leave the Armed Forces, meaning insufficient childcare can have a direct impact on retention.

The Armed Forces Covenant states that local authorities have a responsibility to ensure that there is sufficient childcare provision to meet the requirements of parents in their area.

## RECOMMENDATION 6

**The Scottish Government must ensure that local authorities consult with the Armed Forces community to incorporate the childcare requirements of local Armed Forces families when developing Children's Services Plans and reflect this obligation in statutory guidance.**



# Recognising unique healthcare needs in the Armed Forces community in Scotland

## GP ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS RECOGNITION SCHEME

The GP Armed Forces and Veterans Recognition Scheme, launched in November 2023, aims to improve identification and support for veterans within primary care. However, uptake remains voluntary and has been inconsistent across practices. At time of writing, there are only 45 out of 887 practices registered under the scheme in Scotland<sup>3, xix</sup>.

Recent evidence presented to the Scottish Affairs Committee on support for veterans highlighted low engagement with the scheme. The Scottish Veterans Commissioner confirmed that fewer than 5% of GPs have completed the associated training<sup>4</sup>. This low uptake presents a significant barrier to the scheme's effectiveness. Greater awareness and promotion of the veteran-friendly scheme is essential.

Many veterans are not being correctly coded in GP systems, which limits their access to appropriate care and hampers data collection essential for service planning. Accurate identification of veterans in GP records is critical to ensuring they receive the care they are entitled to and to enable better planning, delivery of services and signposting to additional support in

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.scottishparliament.tv/meeting/scottish-government-debate-support-for-the-veterans-and-armed-forces-community-in-scotland-december-9-2025>

<sup>4</sup> [committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/16239/pdf/](https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/16239/pdf/)

the third sector. Improved data on the scheme's impact is needed to assess its benefits and encourage more veterans to disclose their status.

The Department for Health and Social Care has announced a National Training and Education Programme in England, that will see NHS staff receive dedicated training to help them identify patients with Armed Forces backgrounds and provide the right support. GPs, doctors, nurses, therapists and managers will work with regional trainers to embed this support across the NHS. A similar initiative in Scotland would greatly benefit the Armed Forces community. Significant progress has already been made through the work of the Royal College of GPs in developing Scotland-specific training. It is vital that clinicians are given time and support to access and complete training, as this will help eliminate inconsistencies in how veterans access care and are directed to appropriate services.

Veterans may be reluctant to self-identify due to complex feelings about the term "veteran" and their own experiences of service. Training staff to ask whether someone has "served in the UK Armed Forces" rather than if they are a "veteran" can improve identification and ensure veterans receive the support they need.

## MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health remains a significant concern within the veteran community. Evidence suggests that only around half of veterans experiencing mental health difficulties seek support, with stigma identified as a major barrier to help-seeking.<sup>5</sup>

The Scottish Government has acknowledged this as a priority area and continues to engage through the Veterans Mental Health Advisory Group. Data from the 2022 census indicates that 10.6% (18,714) of veterans reported a mental health condition as a disability.

Mental health issues often emerge after individuals leave the Armed Forces, and delays in accessing appropriate support can have serious consequences for veterans and their families. Family breakdown

<sup>5</sup> Veterans and Armed Forces community 2024: Scottish Government support - gov.scot

is frequently cited as a contributing factor to both homelessness and mental health deterioration among veterans. Mental health concerns are also associated with family and relationship difficulties and wider challenges such as alcohol misuse.

Veterans First Point services<sup>6</sup>, currently operating in five health boards, have demonstrated effectiveness in delivering services<sup>7</sup>. However, these services are not universally available. Veterans often face challenges navigating NHS services, which can feel fragmented and less responsive compared to the more direct and coordinated nature of military healthcare.

<sup>6</sup> Veterans First Point (V1P) is an NHS service delivered by a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and veterans. Operating across five locations in Scotland, V1P works in partnership with statutory and third-sector organisations to provide comprehensive, free support tailored to the diverse needs of veterans.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.veteransfirstpoint.org.uk/sites/default/files/Final%20VIP%20evaluation.pdf>

Additionally, with the recent withdrawal of funding for Veterans First Point in Lothian, other services in this area are now under additional strain. Failing to provide appropriate support early and promptly to individuals in need can result in their condition worsening and taking longer to address needs, moving the strain onto more acute services. It is vital that the Scottish Government demonstrates a clear commitment to funding and supporting mental health services for veterans. A more

integrated and trauma-informed pathway is needed to reduce the burden of repeatedly recounting distressing experiences.

The Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing pathway currently being designed by the Scottish Government represents a positive step forward. However, it is essential that this plan is supported by clear progress updates and sustained funding.

## RECOMMENDATION 7

**The Scottish Government must expand Veterans First Point services to all health boards across Scotland to guarantee consistent access to informed health support for veterans.**

## RECOMMENDATION 8

**The Scottish Government must establish and implement an integrated, trauma-informed mental health pathway to reduce the need for veterans to repeatedly recount distressing experiences.**

## RECOMMENDATION 9

**The Scottish Government must actively promote participation in the GP Armed Forces and Veterans Recognition Scheme to improve uptake and consistency.**

## RECOMMENDATION 10

**The Scottish Government must introduce a national training programme for all frontline NHS and social care staff in Scotland to identify and support patients with Armed Forces backgrounds, including Service families and the bereaved community.**

## MEETING HOMELESSNESS NEED IN SCOTLAND

No one who has served in the Armed Forces should face homelessness. Most veterans manage the transition to a home in civilian life successfully and homelessness affects only a small proportion of veterans. Whilst ex-Service personnel appear no more likely to be homeless than the wider population, the true extent of homelessness amongst veterans is unclear due to some limitations with data collection. Veterans can, however, experience complex and unique issues when facing homelessness.

Since the introduction of the Armed Forces Covenant in 2011, homelessness policy and practice in support of veterans have developed considerably in Scotland, alongside strategies to prevent and alleviate homelessness for all. Poppyscotland welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to address and prevent homelessness for those who have previously served in the Armed Forces and the establishment of an implementation group for the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Pathway<sup>xx</sup>. Wider programmes and funding

**“ only around half of veterans experiencing mental health difficulties seek support ”**

to reduce veterans' homelessness and end rough sleeping have augmented the work of the third sector. Despite these measures and pledges, veterans are still experiencing homelessness.

The proportion of households in Scotland assessed as homeless, or at risk of it, that had a former Armed Forces status has been slowly declining to a low of 2.1% in 2022-23<sup>xxi</sup>. In 2024-25, 759 of 34,067 households (2.2%) had a former Armed Forces status. Veterans are, however, more likely to experience rough sleeping on both the night before making a homelessness application (8.1% compared to 6.2% of non-veterans) and the three months prior (13% compared to 8.9%)<sup>xxii</sup>. Hidden homelessness – where people may be sofa surfing or living in unsuitable or dangerous conditions – can also be a problem for veterans, but the true scale is difficult to estimate. Providers of support to veterans report that hidden homelessness and various forms of unsustainable housing arrangements are not uncommon.

Homeless veterans can experience a number of complex issues, which can play a considerable role

in having unmet housing need, or failing to maintain accommodation. Homelessness data in Scotland indicates that substance misuse presents frequently as an additional need, and a higher prevalence of mental health issues and physical disability amongst those who identified as a veteran upon having a homelessness application processed<sup>xxiii</sup>.

The Armed Forces Act 2021<sup>xxiv</sup> introduced a legal duty for statutory organisations involved in the local delivery of housing to give due regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant. RBL and Poppyscotland's work with local authorities shows there are inconsistencies in implementation of the Covenant Duty. The innovative, practical framework outlined in the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Pathway incorporates the most recent evidence in supporting Armed Forces veterans. Its full implementation in order to embed preventative measures across housing policy and services is a priority to achieve lasting change and ensure the best outcomes for veterans and their families.

## RECOMMENDATION 11

**The Scottish Government must build on its commitment to tackle and prevent homelessness for those who have previously served in the Armed Forces, by fully implementing the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Pathway.**



*“ No one who has served in the Armed Forces should face homelessness. ”*

## Endnotes

- i [SuperWEB2\(tm\) - Table View](#)
- ii [Location statistics for UK regular armed forces and civilians: 2025 - GOV.UK](#)
- iii [New 10-year strategy announced](#)
- iv [Armed forces and veterans community - gov.scot](#)
- v [Summary Characteristics of UK Armed Forces Veterans - Scotland's Census 2022](#)
- vi [Location statistics for UK regular armed forces and civilians: 2025 - GOV.UK](#)
- vii [Ministry of Defence \(2025\) Tri-service families continuous attitude survey: 2025, available at: Tri-service families continuous attitude survey: 2025 - GOV.UK](#)
- viii [Ministry of Defence \(2011\) The Armed Forces Covenant p.1](#)
- ix [Written question and answer: S6W-39784 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- x [L. Scullion et al. \(2024\), The importance for the Department for Work and Pension \(DWP\) Armed Forces Champions, available at New briefing paper informs Armed Forces Champions programme to support Armed Forces Community. - Forces in Mind Trust \(fim-trust.org\), p. 7](#)
- xi [Scottish Government \(2017\), Supporting Children's Learning: Statutory Guidance on the Education \(Additional Support for Learning\) Scotland Act 2004 \(as amended\) Code of Practice \(Third Edition\) 2017, available at Supporting Children's Learning: Statutory Guidance on the Education \(Additional Support for Learning\) Scotland Act 2004 \(as amended\): Code of Practice \(Third Edition\) 2017](#)
- xii [Forces Children Scotland \(2025\), Forces Children's Rights Charter, available at Forces Children's Rights Charter - Forces Children Scotland](#)
- xiii [Forces Children Scotland \(2025\), Forces Children's Rights Charter, available at Forces Children's Rights Charter - Forces Children Scotland](#)
- xiv [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014, available at: Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)
- xv [Ministry of Defence \(2025\), UK Armed Forces Annual Location Statistics: 1 April 2025, available at Excel tables to UK Armed Forces Annual Location statistics 1 April 2025.xlsx](#)
- xvi [Ministry of Defence \(2025\) Tri-service families continuous attitude survey: 2025, available at: Tri-service families continuous attitude survey: 2025 - GOV.UK](#)
- xvii [Scottish Government \(2022\) Best Start: Strategic early learning and school age childcare plan for Scotland 2022-26, available at Best Start: Strategic early learning and school age childcare plan for Scotland 2022-26](#)
- xviii [Ministry of Defence \(2025\) Tri-service families continuous attitude survey: 2025, available at: Tri-service families continuous attitude survey: 2025 - GOV.UK](#)
- xix [General practice list sizes and demographics 2 December 2025 - General practice list sizes and demographics - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)
- xx [Veterans Scotland Housing Group & University of Stirling \(2022\) Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Pathway, available at https://homelessnetwork.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Veterans-Homelessness-Prevention-Pathway-20.1.21.pdf](#)
- xxi [Scottish Government \(2024\) Tables for Homelessness in Scotland Main+tables\\_Homelessness+in+Scotland+2023-24\\_full+time+series.xlsx](#)
- xxii [Scottish Government \(2024\) Homelessness in Scotland: veteran homelessness, available at Homelessness in Scotland: veteran homelessness - gov.scot](#)
- xxiii [Scottish Government \(2025\), Homelessness in Scotland: veteran homelessness, available at Homelessness in Scotland: veteran homelessness - gov.scot](#)
- xxiv [Armed Forces Act \(2021\) available at Armed Forces Act 2021](#)



**CONTACT US**

**Call:** 0131 557 2782

**Email:** [enquiries@poppyscotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@poppyscotland.org.uk)

**Visit:** [www.poppyscotland.org.uk](http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk)



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