



Social Security Act 1989

1989 CHAPTER 24

War pensions committees

25 Establishment and functions of war pensions committees.

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations establish committees, known as war pensions committees, for such areas as may be specified in the regulations; and the regulations may, in particular, include provisions with respect to—
- the membership of the committees;
 - the manner in which the members are to be appointed and the period for which, and the terms on which, they are to hold office; and
 - the manner in which they may be removed.

[^{F1}(1A) The regulations may give the committees functions relating to one or more of the following—

- war pensions;
- war pensioners;
- AFCS benefits;
- AFCS benefit recipients.]

(2) ^{F2}... the regulations may, in particular, provide that [^{F3}it is a function of a committee]—

- to consider any matter [^{F4}connected with war pensions or AFCS benefits or affecting people in its area who are war pensioners or AFCS benefit recipients and, where it thinks] it appropriate, to make recommendations to the Secretary of State about that matter;
- to consider complaints made [^{F5}to it by people receiving or claiming war pensions or AFCS benefits and, if it thinks] fit, to make representations about those complaints to the Secretary of State;
- to consider any matters referred to [^{F6}it] by the Secretary of State and to report to him on those matters with such recommendations as [^{F7}it] may think fit; and
- to assist the War Pensioners' Welfare Service in looking after the welfare of [^{F8}people in its area who are war pensioners or AFCS benefit recipients] .

Changes to legislation: Social Security Act 1989, Section 25 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 October 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (3) The regulations may include provisions with respect to the manner in which the committees are to discharge the functions conferred on them; and they shall exercise their functions subject to, and in accordance with, any such provisions.

[^{F9}(3A) The regulations may provide for the committees to have names specified in the regulations (as well as being known as war pensions committees).]

- (4) In this section—

[^{F10}“AFCS benefit” means a benefit payable under an armed and reserve forces compensation scheme established by order under section 1(2) of the Armed Forces (Pensions and Compensation) Act 2004;]

[^{F10}“AFCS benefit recipient” means a person in receipt of an AFCS benefit, in the person's capacity as such;]

“war pension” means—

- (a) any pension or other benefit, payable otherwise than under an enactment, for or in respect of a person who has died or been disabled in consequence of service as a member of the armed forces of the Crown,
- (b) any pension or benefit awarded under—
 - (i) the ^{M1}Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act 1939,
 - (ii) the ^{M2}Pensions (Navy, Army, Air Force and Mercantile Marine) Act 1939, or
 - (iii) the ^{M3}Polish Resettlement Act 1947,
- (c) any pension or other payment which constitutes such an obligation as is mentioned in section 4(1) of the ^{M4}Statute Law Revision Act 1958 (seamen and fishermen killed or injured in the 1914-1918 war),
- (d) any other pension or benefit which is specified in an order made by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this section,

but does not include any pension or benefit administered by the Defence Council [^{F11}or the Commissioners for the Royal Hospital for Soldiers at Chelsea, or a pension or benefit administered by the Minister of the Crown with responsibility for defence (except one administered by him in the exercise of functions transferred to him from the Secretary of State for Social Security);] and

“war pensioner” means a person in receipt of a war pension, in his capacity as such a pensioner.

- (5) In section 9(1) of the ^{M5}Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 (central advisory committee to include chairmen of at least 12 war pensions committees) for the words “by schemes under section 1 of that Act” there shall be substituted the words “by regulations under section 25 of the Social Security Act 1989”.

- (6) In the ^{M6}War Pensions Act 1921—

- (a) sections 1 and 2 (which are superseded by this section) shall cease to have effect; and
- (b) in section 3 (constitution of central advisory committee) for the words “under this Act” there shall be substituted the words “under section 25 of the Social Security Act 1989”.

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Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 25(1A) inserted (21.11.2017) by Armed Forces Act 2016 (c. 21), **ss. 15(2)**, 19(1); S.I. 2017/1131, reg. 2
- F2** Words in s. 25(2) omitted (21.11.2017) by virtue of Armed Forces Act 2016 (c. 21), **ss. 15(3)(a)**, 19(1); S.I. 2017/1131, reg. 2
- F3** Words in s. 25(2) substituted (21.11.2017) by Armed Forces Act 2016 (c. 21), **ss. 15(3)(b)**, 19(1); S.I. 2017/1131, reg. 2
- F4** Words in s. 25(2)(a) substituted (21.11.2017) by Armed Forces Act 2016 (c. 21), **ss. 15(3)(c)**, 19(1); S.I. 2017/1131, reg. 2
- F5** Words in s. 25(2)(b) substituted (21.11.2017) by Armed Forces Act 2016 (c. 21), **ss. 15(3)(d)**, 19(1); S.I. 2017/1131, reg. 2
- F6** Word in s. 25(2)(c) substituted (21.11.2017) by Armed Forces Act 2016 (c. 21), **ss. 15(3)(e)(i)**, 19(1); S.I. 2017/1131, reg. 2
- F7** Word in s. 25(2)(c) substituted (21.11.2017) by Armed Forces Act 2016 (c. 21), **ss. 15(3)(e)(ii)**, 19(1); S.I. 2017/1131, reg. 2
- F8** Words in s. 25(2)(d) substituted (21.11.2017) by Armed Forces Act 2016 (c. 21), **ss. 15(3)(f)**, 19(1); S.I. 2017/1131, reg. 2
- F9** S. 25(3A) inserted (21.11.2017) by Armed Forces Act 2016 (c. 21), **ss. 15(4)**, 19(1); S.I. 2017/1131, reg. 2
- F10** Words in s. 25(4) inserted (21.11.2017) by Armed Forces Act 2016 (c. 21), **ss. 15(5)**, 19(1); S.I. 2017/1131, reg. 2
- F11** Words in the definition of “war pension” in s. 25(4) substituted (3.12.2001) by S.I. 2001/3506, art. 5, **Sch. para. 3**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1939 c. 82.
- M2** 1939 c. 83.
- M3** 1947 c. 19.
- M4** 1958 c. 46.
- M5** 1970 c. 44.
- M6** 1921 c. 49.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 5 para. 5E and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 7](#)