

Veterans Hearing Fund

Stage 1 - Eligibility Application



About the Veterans Hearing Fund:

The Veterans Hearing Fund (VHF) is managed by The Royal British Legion. It is designed to meet the wellbeing needs of veterans who acquired hearing loss or impairment during their Service in the UK Armed Forces. The VHF is able to fund items that are not available through statutory services such as the NHS.

The VHF is able to fund the following:

- Hearing aids
- Assisted Listening Devices
- Tinnitus Therapies
- Other therapies related to hearing loss

The VHF cannot reimburse costs, and is therefore unable to provide funding for hearing aids, hardware, or therapies where payment has already been made.

Due to the popularity of the Fund and the need to check eligibility, the turn around time from application through to approval can be over 5 months.

Eligibility for funding:

To be eligible for funding you need to provide evidence that your hearing loss was acquired during Service. To do this, please submit one of the following documents with this application:

1. Evidence of a War Pension or AFCS award for your hearing loss
2. Evidence of a lump sum payment for your hearing loss
3. A letter from the MOD accepting your hearing loss was caused by Service
4. Evidence of having received hearing aids from the Defence Audiology Service

Please make sure you send copies, rather than original documents.

If you no longer have evidence for points 1,2 or 3 above, please contact Veterans UK on 08081914218, who can send you copies of those documents.

If you do not meet any of the above criteria, you may still be eligible. However, you will need to apply for your **Service Medical Records** from the MOD. Do this by completing the MOD Subject Access Request (SAR) form, which can be found on The Legion's website. Alternatively, please call our Contact Centre on 0808 802 8080 or email medicalfunds@britishlegion.org.uk and request a copy of the SAR form.

Once you have completed the MOD's SAR form, send it to the MOD using the relevant address on the form. It is your responsibility to submit the Subject Access Request form and monitor progress with the relevant MOD records office. We are unable to assist with this.

Please do not send your completed SAR form to The Legion, as this can cause delays to your application.

Once completed, please send this application along with your supporting documents to:

**Veterans Medical Funds
The Royal British Legion
199 Borough High Street
London SE1 1AA**

You will receive a decision on your eligibility once we have processed your application. Due to the popularity of the fund it may take us a number of weeks to contact you.

Next steps:

If your stage 1 application is approved or provisionally approved, you will be sent the second stage application form, which must be completed by an audiologist. An invitation to stage two is not a guarantee that your application for financial assistance will be approved.

For further information on the Veterans Hearing Fund, please visit the Legion's website (www.britishlegion.org.uk), call 0808 802 8080, or email medicalfunds@britishlegion.org.uk.

Stage 1 – Eligibility Application form:

APPLICANT DETAILS We will use this information to contact you			
Full Name			
Date of Birth			
Telephone number			
Email Address	(Only give your email address if you are happy to be contacted by email)		
Postal Address			
	Postcode		
ELIGIBILITY We will use this information to check your eligibility for the VHF			
Military Service Details			
Service Number			
Division/Regiment(s)			
Enlistment Date		Discharge Date	

Eligibility Criteria (please tick all that apply)					
☐ In receipt of a War Pension or AFCS award for your hearing loss ☐ Received a lump sum payment for your hearing loss ☐ Applied for compensation previously for hearing loss but was refused ☐ Provided hearing aids by MOD ☐ Submitting my service medical records ☐ Other (please provide details):					
I no longer have documentation. I have contacted Veterans UK and they are unable to provide this.					☐
We take copies of the documents sent to us and then dispose of the originals. Please tick here if you would prefer us to return your documents to you.					☐
YOUR CONSENT					
Where you have indicated that you no longer have the required documentation, we will contact the Defence Business Services on your behalf to request this. We need your consent to process your application. If you consent to us using and sharing your information in the ways set out on this form, please sign and date below. You can find out more about how the Legion uses personal data by visiting: www.britishlegion.org.uk/privacy					
Signature				Date	
APPLYING ON SOMEONE ELSE'S BEHALF					
If you are completing this application on someone else's behalf, also provide the following:					
Your name					
Your relationship to the applicant.....					
Tick here to confirm you have the applicant's consent to give us this information ☐					
How did you hear about the Veterans Fund?					
Approval (Office use only)					
☐ War Pension or AFCS ☐ Lump sum ☐ Hearing aids by MOD ☐ Accepted Condition ☐ Service Audiometry ☐ Provisional Approval					
Signed		Position		Date	