

Guide to Benevolence for RAOC veterans

Sometimes, things don't go according to plan, and people find themselves in need of financial support; this could range from struggling with utility bills to the need for mobility aids, and everything in between. Every man or woman, including National Servicemen, who has completed one day of full colour service in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps is eligible for support from the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) Charity. Former members of the TA/Reserves are also eligible if they served for more than 4 years or carried out an operational tour of duty.

Spouses, civil partners and unless they have remarried, widows and widowers are also eligible for support. Children under the age of 18 will normally be considered; unmarried adult children who because of a disability are dependent upon their parents may also be eligible.

All benevolence for former members of the RAOC is conducted by a specialist team based at HQ RLC, under the direction of the RLC Benevolent Committee. A former RAOC officer is a member of the committee, representing the RAOC Council and the interests of former members of the RAOC.

For help with urgent needs, such as food, utilities or emergency overnight accommodation, the Veterans Charity acts as an agent for the RLC Benevolence team. Currently If you need help with a sum of up to £300, you can contact them directly via the website at <https://www.veteranscharity.org.uk/>

You can also make an online application to the Royal British Legion (TRBL) for an immediate grant: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-support/how-we-help/financial-support/grants>

For more complicated support issues, you can contact either SSAFA or TRBL, and you will be assigned a caseworker. The caseworker will arrange to meet with you, either virtually or face-to-face. They will assess your situation and with your permission, prepare a written report, which is sent to the Benevolence Office at HQ RLC. If the case is successful, a payment will be made to the caseworking organisation, who will work with suppliers to provide the goods and services you need. Grants are not made directly to individual beneficiaries, and loans are not available.

Both SSAFA and TRBL will need key information, such as regimental number, dates of service, income, expenditure, and details of any savings. If you don't have your record of service (Red Book, or discharge certificate) they can apply for confirmation of service from the MOD, which will take a little extra time. A Veterans' ID card unfortunately doesn't give any detail of your service, so won't be helpful in this case.

SSAFA Forcesline 0800 260 6767

RBL Helpline 0808 802 8080