Career Transition Partnership Frequently Asked Questions in relation to COVID-19

These FAQs have been created to respond to questions you may have in relation to adjustments that have been made to delivery of CTP services, as a result of COVID-19. They are updated on a regular basis and we will continue to keep you updated to the best of our knowledge with any further changes.

The answers supplied reflect MOD guidance and policy and your Service Resettlement Advisor (SRA) will be able to help if you have any concerns on Service issues. If you have any remaining questions that aren't covered, please do get in touch via <u>resettlementinfo@ctp.org.uk</u>

To help you navigate through the questions, they have been broken down into sections as follows. Click on a question to jump to where it appears in this document.

VISITING CTP CENTRES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- 1. What Covid-safe measures should I follow when visiting a CTP centre?
- 2. What should I do if I have a positive Covid test or have any symptoms?
- 3. How should I get in touch to book a course, workshop, or appointment?
- 4. <u>I prefer undertaking online/virtual workshops/webinars/courses will these continue, or do I have to attend a centre?</u>

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- 5. My course was cancelled part way through; will I get a refund?
- 6. If my training course was cancelled due to COVID-19 how will I get a place on a future course date?
- 7. <u>My course was cancelled part way through; will I have all of my GRT/IRTC reinstated so I can</u> repeat it?
- 8. Will I get a full refund if I have already paid for my non-refundable exam fees in advance?
- 9. <u>I have paid for my travel and accommodation in advance; will I be refunded for this if my course is cancelled?</u>
- 10. I have used ELC funding to pay for my course, will this be reinstated?
- 11. Which vocational training courses will still be delivered virtually?
- 12. Do I have to use GRT to attend an online vocational training course?
- 13. <u>I left the Service but the post-discharge CTP support I am receiving has been affected due to</u> <u>COVID-19.</u>
- 14. Why is my virtual training course the same price as the face-to-face training course?

TRANSITION WORKSHOPS & RESETTLEMENT CENTRES

- 15. Can I extend to finish my resettlement?
- 16. <u>Will I get deferred resettlement?</u>
- 17. What happens to my resettlement if I sign back on?
- 18. My RAB was cancelled how can I access CTP?



- 19. How can I contact CTP staff?
- 20. How can I contact my 2nd Line whilst they are working remotely and not in units?
- 21. I am close to my discharge date and would like to attend a CTW but they are all at full capacity. What options do I have?
- 22. Will Financial Aspects of Resettlement (FAR) briefings be taking place on base units?

EMPLOYMENT, JOB-SEEKING & EVENTS:

- 23. I have recently left the Army but am considering re-joining, is this possible?
- 24. I have recently left the Royal Navy but am considering re-joining, is this possible?
- 25. I have recently left the Royal Air Force but am considering re-joining, is this possible?
- 26. <u>Will physical events such as employment fairs recommence?</u>
- 27. Should I still apply for opportunities on RightJob?
- 28. How can I access CTP Future Horizon support remotely?
- 29. Are employers still recruiting?
- 30. Are employers still doing interviews?
- 31. What's happening in the job market?

FAQS

VISITING CTP CENTRES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. What Covid-safe measures should I follow when visiting a CTP centre?

The current MoD policy aims to retain resilience and to help Service leavers and CTP staff to feel protected from the transmission of Covid-19 and omicron. The policy states:

• There is no requirement for Service leavers to wear a face covering in CTP sites, however those who wish to continue to do so will be fully supported.

Good hygiene behaviors and following the guidance provided around keeping a distance and regularly sanitising. Behaving in a socially responsible way to protect yourself and others, remains of paramount importance to reduce the chance of transmission.

- 2. What should I do if I have had a positive Covid test or have any symptoms? MoD policy states that if you have had a positive Covid diagnosis of Covid you should not enter any CTP centre and should follow the appropriate government guidelines:
 - Government guidance for England https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus
 - Government guidance for Scotland https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/
 - Government guidance for Wales at https://gov.wales/coronavirus
 - Government guidance for Northern Ireland https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19
- **3.** How should I get in touch to book a course, workshop or appointment? If you need to contact a member of CTP staff you should do so by telephone or email in the first instance. The footfall of individuals at CTP centres is carefully monitored to limit the number of individuals in centres, so please avoid visiting without a pre-scheduled appointment. The contact details of your local centre should have already been shared with



you but they can also be found on the Contact Us page on our website here.

4. I prefer undertaking online/virtual workshops/webinars/courses – will these continue, or do I have to attend a centre?

The increased programme of online resettlement activities such as transition workshops, virtual events, vocational training, webinars, and live chats will remain in place until further notice, offering you more flexible options in these uncertain times.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

5. My course was cancelled part way through; will I get a refund?

In the first instance you must attempt to rebook your course place for a future date. If that isn't possible, then request a refund from the training provider (for courses delivered through CTP this will be CTP). Should the provider's terms and conditions not allow a full refund then apply for any outstanding funds via MoD Form 2245 Annex H to JSP 534 which can be found in the footer of all pages on the CTP website, in the Quick Links drop down box. Completion of the form should be in line with JSP 534 part 1 Para 501; the completed form should NOT be submitted to CTP. As with all JPA claims, proof must be obtained from the training provider to demonstrate the difference between what was paid and the refund provided. If you have used ELCAS funding then please refer to ELCAS rules on reinstatement of your funding; your SRA can advise on this.

6. If my training course was cancelled due to COVID-19 how will I get a place on a future course date?

If you had booked a place on a CTP course but it was cancelled due to COVID-19, then you will be contacted by the booking team and offered a future date. A number of course places will be ringfenced and, where possible, extra courses delivered to accommodate you. The MoD has directed that priority will be given to those with only 6 months left to serve, medical discharges and those who have extended in service once already in order to accommodate their course(s); future dates will be offered to those not in these categories.

7. My course was cancelled part way through; will I have all of my GRT/IRTC reinstated so I can repeat it?

Yes via MoD F 2245 Annex H to JSP 534 which can be found in the footer of all pages on the CTP website, in the Quick Links drop down box.

8. Will I get a full refund if I have already paid for my non-refundable exam fees in advance?

In the first instance you must attempt to re-book the exam. If this is not possible, proof must be obtained and then you should claim via MoD Form 2245, Annex H to JSP 534 which can be found in the footer of all pages on the CTP website, in the Quick Links drop down box.

9. I have paid for my travel and accommodation in advance; will I be refunded for this if my course is cancelled?

Yes, if booked via HRG, this function will be carried out by them. If not, then use of the MoD Form 2245 is to be used with supporting evidence.

10.I have used ELC funding to pay for my course, will this be reinstated?

TESRR policy states that "Any claimants who are attending courses or are intending to do so are requested to comply with Government guidance: The following Government guidance on GOV.UK must be followed: <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-</u>



<u>infection updated</u> 26th January 2022. If a learner must self-isolate, then all efforts will be made to offer an alternative option later on. Additionally, it is recommended you refer to the cancellation and reinstatement guidance found on the FAQs page (link here: <u>http://www.enhancedlearningcredits.com/fags</u>).

11. Which vocational training courses will still be delivered virtually?

The following vocational training virtual classroom courses will continue as follows:

- <u>5-day APM PMQ</u>
- <u>10-day APM PMQ</u>
- Prince 2
- <u>Management of Change</u>
- Management of Risk
- <u>Agile Project Management</u>
- <u>Strategic Finance for Non-Financial Managers</u>
- <u>Managing Safely (IOSH)</u>
- <u>CompTIA CYSA+</u>
- <u>CompTIA PenTest+</u>
- <u>ILM L5 in Service Improvement</u>
- <u>Developing & Managing a Business with an online presence classroom/virtual and also</u> <u>full virtual on some dates</u>
- Level 3 Award in Education and Training
- Drone Piloting Level 4 Diploma (blended learning)

12.Do I have to use GRT to attend an online vocational training course?

Yes. If online training is being completed during working hours, it should be taken as GRT; not to do so is fraudulent. If you cannot access a JPA terminal to apply for your GRT please contact your Unit HR Admin and they should be able to help you. JPA will be updated with your attendance and use of GRT retrospectively if required.

13.I left the Service but the post-discharge CTP support I am receiving has been affected due to COVID-19.

CTP support post Service has been extended by 3 months from 24 months to 27 months to take into account COVID-19 disruption. The extension will apply to everyone registered for resettlement between 17th March and 30th June 2020 and this will be added as a footnote to JSP 534.

14. Why is my virtual training course the same price as the face to face training course?

Virtual classroom training is quite different to e-Learning. Our Virtual courses are delivered by the same trainer with the same maximum attendee numbers as classroom courses. You will be able to fully interact with the trainer and other class members, participate in group discussions and breakout rooms, view videos and boards, and have a very similar experience to that of classroom training. Some online pre course work will be required in advance, and course workbooks will be sent out by post wherever possible. A laptop or desktop PC with a webcam, microphone and speaker (or headset) will be required to complete any of our virtual courses and undertake the exam(s) from their current location.



TRANSITION WORKSHOPS & RESETTLEMENT CENTRES

15.Can I extend to finish my resettlement?

This is a decision which will be made by individual single Service point of contact. Although access to CTP post-discharge resettlement entitlement has been extended by 3 months, in-Service extensions are at the gift of single Service points of contact, as per JSP 534.

16.Will I get deferred resettlement?

You may have the option to defer your resettlement to enable you to undertake resettlement post discharge. Please contact your single Service SRA for more information and guidance on deferral policy.

17.What happens to my resettlement if I sign back on?

As per JSP 534 which can be found in the footer of all pages on the CTP website, in the Quick Links drop down box.

18.My RAB was cancelled how can I access CTP?

This will be decided by single Services. Some 2nd line are conducting telephone interviews to register Service leavers. Please contact your local SRA for more detail; this may include the use of paper-based forms as last resort.

19. How can I contact CTP staff?

Email remains the most robust form of contact with CTP staff. The reason for this is that some telephone lines are inaccessible due to staff working remotely. We have updated the <u>Contact</u> <u>Us</u> page on the CTP website.

20.How can I contact my 2nd Line whilst they are working remotely and not in units? You are advised to make initial contact with your local education centre. They will be able to link you with a point of contact at a local level who will be able to address any questions you may have with relation to your resettlement provision.

21.I am close to my discharge date and would like to attend a CTW but they are all at full capacity. What options do I have?

In the unlikely event that there is no availability for a CTW (either remote or classroom-based) within your timeframe, we recommend you book a full guidance telephone call as soon as possible. In addition to this, we have a host of bespoke on-line activities to ensure you are fully supported and meet your resettlement needs.

22.Will Financial Aspects of Resettlement (FAR) briefings be taking place on base units? You can find the next scheduled dates for FARs on the **CTP website here**.

EMPLOYMENT, JOB-SEEKING & EVENTS:

- **23.I have recently left the Army but am considering re-joining, is this possible?** The Army's policy on Re-joining is contained in AGAI 40, Part 4. There is a page on the <u>Army Website</u> devoted to re-joiners, which includes information on eligibility and process.
- **24.I have recently left the Royal Navy but am considering re-joining, is this possible?** There is a page on the <u>RN website</u> devoted to re-joiners into the Royal Navy, which includes



information on eligibility and process.

25.I have recently left the Royal Air Force but am considering re-joining, is this possible?

There is a page on the <u>RAF website</u> devoted to re-joiners into the Royal Air Force, which includes information on eligibility and process.

26.Will physical events such as Employment Fairs recommence?

We have recommenced opening our doors to in-person CTP Employment Fairs and have a full programme scheduled throughout 2022. Our priority is to ensure our events are carried out in a safe and responsible way, to protect the safety of high volumes of individuals in close proximity, and to minimise the spread of COVID-19. In order to do this, we will follow the advice and restrictions put in place by the government and public health authorities at the time of each event. Details of the most up to date guidance will be shared in the joining instructions sent to you prior to any CTP event you are registered to attend.

Our Virtual Employer Events (VEEs) continue to be an effective, additional way for you to engage with multiple employers. The VEEs enable you to engage directly with employers using video technology.

All CTP events are promoted on the <u>Events Calendar</u> on our website, where you will find further information and directions for booking your place. You will also find the majority of the vacancies being advertised at these events on <u>CTP RightJob</u>.

27.Should I still apply for opportunities on RightJob?

Absolutely! Our Employer Engagement team are continuing to work with employers to support them with their recruitment needs. The employment market is showing strong signs of recovery and we are now seeing record levels of vacancies. We would encourage you to apply for any suitable roles you see on <u>CTP RightJob</u> as soon as possible and not wait for the closing date. We are seeing some employers closing their vacancies before the closing date as they are receiving a high number of applications.

New vacancies are uploaded on a daily basis, so you should login regularly to ensure you don't miss out on the perfect role for you. If you have completed your online profile, and opted in to receive updates, we will continue to notify you of suitable jobs. If you have any questions about your job matches, please contact us via <u>resettlementinfo@ctp.org.uk</u>

28. How can I access CTP Future Horizon support remotely?

If you are leaving the Services having served less than 4 years, you are entitled to CTP Future Horizons support (<u>https://www.ctp.org.uk/futurehorizons</u>). If your unit is temporarily closed and you have not been able to get signed up to the programme, please contact Angela or Amanda by email at <u>aheap@ctp.org.uk</u> or <u>akettlewell@ctp.org.uk</u> and we will get back to you as soon as possible to support you.

29.Are employers still recruiting?

Yes! We are seeing strong signs of recovery across the employment market, with record numbers of vacancies as more jobs are being created with the cessation of Covid-19 restrictions. Sectors such as transport, utilities, IT, engineering, logistics and healthcare are among the top sectors for recruitment. On CTP RightJob the majority of roles advertised are



permanent positions, which is a positive sign that employers have confidence in the skills and attributes Service personnel can bring to their workforce.

All of our employers' opportunities are listed on <u>CTP RightJob</u>, so please do log in regularly as it is updated on a daily basis. It would also be advisable to take a moment to check that your RightJob profile is up to date, and your availability date is populated to ensure you are matched to the right opportunities which meet your criteria.

The number of candidates per role is on the increase and this is creating a very competitive employer led market for candidates; the result of this being that some vacancies will close very quickly. If you are applying for a role you will need to ensure that it done in good time with a well-tailored CV.

30.Are employers still doing interviews?

Yes. In many cases employers are conducting face to face interviews. However, we are aware that there has been an increase in employers utilising video conferencing far more to conduct their interviews. The CTP have a number of tools to support you with video interviews which should be utilised to improve your video technique. Please take a look at the tools available to you in your 'myPlan' account or speak to your consultant or advisor for more details.

31.What's happening in the job market?

The employment markets are showing strong signs of recovery. There are more opportunities on CTP RightJob than there were prior to the pandemic. Sectors such as transport, utilities, IT, engineering, logistics and healthcare are among the top sectors for recruitment, with Financial & Professional Services also seeing an increase. On <u>CTP RightJob</u> the majority of roles advertised are permanent positions, which is a positive sign that employers have confidence in the skills and attributes Service personnel can bring to their workforce.

Many employers are struggling to identify candidates with the talent and skills they need. It is therefore more important than ever to ensure that you proactively tailor your CV for every role you apply for to clearly demonstrate what you can bring to the employer. Many employers have had to adapt their businesses to new delivery models and many are now looking for a more agile workforce. This has made digital skills even more valuable to potential employers.

The CTP Employer Engagement team are continuing to engage with hundreds of employers who are still recruiting. These opportunities are advertised on CTP RightJob. Many employers are also engaged with our employment events which you can find on the <u>events calendar</u> on the CTP website.

