

P R E S S R E L E A S E



18th March 2009

National Audit Office Report into Service Families Accommodation

Housing is the number one issue for Army families and good housing is widely acknowledged as a key retention tool for serving soldiers. In fact the recent Families Continuous Attitude Survey (CAS) listed a total of 11 housing points as lowlights of Army life.

The report from the National Audit Office has highlighted a number of areas that we at the Army Families Federation (AFF) have been hearing about from families for some time and which we have repeatedly brought to the attention of Government Ministers, the MOD and Defence Estates. It is hugely frustrating that despite constant lobbying Army families see little progress being made. The AFF will be watching closely to see what affect the report has on Defence Estates funding of improvements and will closely monitor any plans to address the reports recommendations.

At current rates it will take 20 years to upgrade all SFA to the highest grade (grade 1 for condition) and without proper investment in the fabric of the SFA estate very little will improve in the short or even medium term. It is crucial that this investment filters through to effect real changes on the ground to military housing. In the twenty first century, it is utterly ridiculous that many service families are not provided with a shower in their homes.

Julie McCarthy, AFF Chief Executive

Ends

Media enquiries to: Sue Davies on 01980 615517 or email dircomms@aff.org.uk
or more information about AFF - www.aff.org.uk