

10 March 2020

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### **FIMT/EOI201: Future Trends – their impact on the Armed Forces Community in 2031 and beyond, with a focus on transition**

#### **FIMT Background**

1. Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT) was established at the start of 2012 with a £35 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund. FiMT's vision is that all ex-Service personnel and their families lead fulfilled civilian lives. The mission of FiMT is to enable ex-Service personnel and their families to make a successful and sustainable transition into civilian life, and the Trust's strategy is to provide an evidence base that will influence and underpin policy making and service delivery. By funding high quality, credible research where there is an identified gap in relevant understanding, and by then exploiting the findings, FiMT effects positive change.
2. FiMT has been developing its change model to help shape its commissioning work which supports programmes in the areas of: Housing; Employment; Health; Finance; Criminal Justice System; and Relationships. For more information about FiMT please visit [www.fim-trust.org](http://www.fim-trust.org).

#### **Context**

3. It is well recognised that ex-Service personnel's experiences of transition vary greatly, and that they are significantly affected by the individual's attitude to transition, by the scope and depth of support available (both statutory and voluntary), and by the wider social context<sup>1</sup> in which the Armed Forces Community<sup>2</sup> seeks to achieve successful and sustainable transition. Thus, **the broad focus of this research project is on future socio-economic and socio-political trends and their impact on transition in 2031 and beyond. By generating enhanced knowledge and insight into the relevant trends, and the implied changing nature of the interventions and support required, FiMT is aiming to ensure that the Armed Forces Community has the best possible chance of success of making a successful and sustainable transition to civilian life.**
4. FiMT will use the outputs from this project to encourage central and local Government, and the Armed Forces charities sector, to better plan and develop the support that will be needed to ensure successful sustainable transition for the Armed Forces Community in the future. We anticipate that the project will also help to inform FiMT's own work and priorities during the remainder of its organisational lifetime.
5. FiMT's assumption is that the existing evidence base on the profile of the Armed Forces Community, and the knowledge and evidence of trends and insights impacting on Armed Forces charities, will be used as part of the analysis of wider future trends and their inter-dependencies.

Some existing studies should form part of the analysis framework. These include:

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<sup>1</sup> The Transition Mapping Study. Forces in Mind Trust, The Futures Company, 2013

<sup>2</sup> The UK Armed Forces Community as defined in the Armed Forces Covenant includes regular personnel, reservists, veterans (those who have served at least a day in the UK Armed Forces), families of regular personnel, reservists and veterans and the bereaved (the immediate family of Service personnel and veterans who have died).

- [The Royal British Legion's Household Survey 2015](#) summarises the size, profile and needs of the ex-Service community and provides forecasts on future profile. The Royal British Legion is currently planning to update this research for publication in 2021. As with the 2015 research, FiMT is likely to make a grant award to co-fund it.
- The Directory of Social Change's report in 2019, [Focus on Armed Forces Charities – Sector Trends](#), funded by FiMT and produced in association with Cobseo, examines trends affecting the Armed Forces charity sector.
- The Directory of Social Change also published [Sector Insight. UK Armed Forces Charities. An overview and analysis in 2014](#) and a new Sector Insight report by the DSC is due to be published in Spring 2020. Both these reports were commissioned and funded by FiMT in association with Cobseo.
- The Kings College Mental Health Research Centre's report on [Stigma and barriers to care in Service leavers with mental health problems, 2017](#) provides evidence and insight into the journey to seeking support and treatment for mental health issues.

## Scope

6. The scope of this work covers future social, technical, economic, environmental (i.e. the socio-political context), political (including UK Government), legal and ethical trends analysis and forecasting and their impact on the Armed Forces Community, across the UK, with a focus on transition. It also covers trends relating to the changing nature of military service. Whilst its scope is largely around UK trends, it is recognised that some consideration will need to be given to global trends too. The project will require identification of the trends that are likely to be most relevant to future cohorts of those members of the Armed Forces Community who undergo transition.

7. The research project should include trends that are expected to impact on the nature of service in the Armed Forces as well as the civilian world into which Service leavers and their families will enter at the end of their service. In order to generate insights into how transition specifically will change over time, the views of the Ministry of Defence, the Office for Veterans' Affairs, Career Transition Partnership<sup>3</sup> and other Government Departments should be included. The views of the representatives from the Armed Forces charities sector and the Armed Forces Community should also be included. In order to generate insights into how civilian society may change regarding the needs of the Armed Forces Community, the views of thought leaders such as those based in think tanks and academia should also be included.

8. The changing nature of public perceptions of ex-Service personnel should be taken into account.

9. A final research report should offer recommendations for how the trends analysis can be used to best effect: for example, by charities, Government and other organisations, that may benefit from considering the implications for their own work and future strategy.

## Timescale

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<sup>3</sup> CTP is a partnership between the MOD and Right Management Group which works with people transitioning out of the Armed Forces to help them find employment and settle into civilian life. Further information can be found at: <https://www.ctp.org.uk/>

10. FiMT is seeking to commission this research project by May 2020, and the Trust would like to see it completed in early 2021, and no later than 12 months from commencement. The proposed timetable for the tendering process is as follows:

- Deadline for submissions of EOIs: 2pm Monday 30 March 2020
- Invitation to tender issued: 3 April 2020
- Deadline for submission of tenders: Wednesday 29 April 2020
- Interviews: 5/6 May 2020 Central London
- Project start: June 2020

11. Final report to be published in first quarter of 2021.

### **Approximate value of the award**

12. The cost of this project is expected to be £200,000-300,000. Value for money (impact versus cost) will be a key determinant in assessing this bid.

### **Methodology**

13. A combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies should be used for this project. It should include the use of foresight methods, such as horizon scanning and key drivers' analysis, in order to identify and assess emerging technological, social, economic and political trends. It may also include the use of scenarios to test assumptions and plans, and to help formulate policy options and recommendations.

14. Qualitative research activity should include representatives from central and local government, the Armed Forces charity sector, relevant academic and social science/research body input and from ex-Service personnel. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

15. It is envisaged that future trends analysis and forecasting (where appropriate) will draw on quantified trends that are already in the public domain.

16. Analysis should identify the issues and questions that would benefit from further discussion and debate in order to build a full and informed view of the challenges and opportunities that the Armed Forces Community is likely to face in 2031 and beyond.

### **Impact and Influence**

17. The project should be sufficiently well developed to be capable of generating some key (policy) questions that can be used to inform discussion and debate at a fringe event that FiMT is planning to host at the main political party conferences in Autumn 2020 (end September/early October).

18. An event with key stakeholders, including senior opinion-formers and decision-makers is being planned for mid-November at St George's House, Windsor. It is anticipated that the discussions from the party conference events will feed into and enrich project outputs such as, for example, a set of scenarios, which can be used to facilitate further discussion at this November event.

19. Consideration should be given on how to best engage stakeholders with the research findings and any conclusions and recommendations. This might include whether by shedding light on future trends, there is a need to develop any specific tools for enabling relevant organisations whose core work is concerned with the Armed Forces Community and transition, to make best use of the findings.

20. Further to this, and in line with the Forces in Mind Trust's use of an impact approach, this research should identify how any results or conclusions could be developed into a plan to effect change in (or development of) current or new services or support being offered during the transition process or thereafter.

21. 2021 is an important year in terms of opportunities provided by some significant anniversaries that may increase public awareness of the needs of ex-Service personnel and their families. The Royal British Legion will be celebrating their centenary, and it will be ten years since the Armed Forces Act 2011 made it a requirement of Government to produce an annual report to Parliament on the Armed Forces Covenant. FiMT is planning to publish a further report on assessing the delivery of Covenant pledges and considering ways to improve local delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant<sup>4</sup>.

## **Intellectual Property**

22. In commissioning this research, the title to all intellectual property rights created or developed during the course of this research ("Foreground Intellectual Property") will pass to FiMT. FiMT will grant the researcher a royalty-free licence (and sub-licence if required) to use and exploit the Foreground Intellectual Property.

## **Communication of findings**

23. FiMT expects that any findings from this project would be made available in the public domain. This will include posting the final report on FiMT's website and the Veterans and Families Research Hub as a minimum, but may also include other written outputs such as fact sheets, evidence summaries or online blogs specifically targeted to a relevant, non-academic policymaker or service provider. This could also include oral presentations at conferences and meetings with relevant stakeholders.

## **Lead organisation and named participants**

24. The credibility, experience, and expertise of the lead organization and associated partners are critical to the success of this project, both in terms of access to subjects and the final output. FiMT can fund work from registered charities and registered companies.

## **Application process**

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[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/49469/the\\_armed\\_forces\\_covenant.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/49469/the_armed_forces_covenant.pdf) accessed 1647 hrs 20 Feb 20.

25. All Expressions of Interest (EOIs) will be assessed by the deadline stated below. Any EOIs received after this deadline will not be considered. A detailed Invitation to Tender (ITT) will be sent to all those organisations invited to tender for this research/project.

### **Ethics**

26. FiMT expects all research to be carried out in an ethical manner and bidders must be able to demonstrate how this will be achieved. As this project will focus on ex-Service personnel, we do not anticipate a requirement to obtain approval from the Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee (MODREC).

### **Selection Principles**

27. FiMT will use the following selection criteria to determine which organizations will be invited to tender:

- The quality of the EOI. Robust and thorough research is the primary selection criteria.
- The clarity of the EOI in setting out how the research will be carried out.
- The likelihood of the EOI's Impact and Influence proposal to make long-term and sustainable impact.
- The credibility, experience and expertise of the organization(s) seeking to deliver this project, both in terms of delivery and also in the exploitation of the subsequent findings.
- The experience and knowledge of public sector organisations and the transition process from the UK Armed Forces.
- Ethical credentials.
- Value for money.

Feedback on unsuccessful EOIs will be at FiMT's discretion.

### **Information to be included in the EOI and deadline for submission**

28. FiMT expects the EOI to be a **maximum of 8 pages** and to contain the following information:

- EOI reference number and title.
- Name and details of lead organisation, including: postal, email and website addresses, type of organisation (public, private, voluntary and community sector or other) with any registration numbers, telephone numbers, and details for the person point of contact.
- Name and contact details of any other organisation involved.
- An outline of how the research would be carried out. This should include how access to a cohort/cohorts would be expected.
- An indication of how UK-wide relevance or applicability would be ensured.
- Examples of other work you have already carried out on this subject or in this area and your expertise on this subject.
- An indication of cost, a broad allocation of costs, and what proportion would be requested from FiMT.

EOIs must be submitted via [applications@fim-trust.org](mailto:applications@fim-trust.org) by 2pm on Monday 30 March 2020. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this research/project prior to submission, please contact Isabel Summers at [eo@fim-trust.org](mailto:eo@fim-trust.org).

Ray Lock CBE  
Chief Executive, Forces in Mind Trust