

FR20 Consultation – What does this mean for Reservists? What is the proposition?

On 8 November 2012, MOD launched a public consultation on the future of the UK's Reserve Forces, 'Future Reserves 2020: Delivering the Nation's Security Together'.

The consultation is open until 18 January 2013 and invites Reserves, their families, regular Armed Forces, employers and anyone else with an interest in Reserves to give us their views on the proposed changes to Reserve service.

By 2020 we need a reserve force that is bigger – double the number of trained reserves, better integrated into our Armed Forces so reserves and regulars train side by side and a better trained and equipped Reserve Force. We are spending 1.8bn over the next 10 years to build up our reserves. What do we need from you?

The future relationship between Defence and reservists will need to be based on mutual commitment; we need our reservists to maintain certain training standards and availability for operations, in return Defence will provide enhanced experience, reward and recognition:

Current proposition

'Defence will offer the challenge and reward which attracts people to volunteer, and undertakes to train and support them throughout their Service, including when mobilised and recuperating.'

New proposition

'As a serving member of the Armed Forces a Volunteer Reservist commits to routinely train and mobilise. In return, Defence will offer attractive challenges and rewards to volunteers, will train and support them throughout their Service (including when mobilised and recuperating) and will seek to predict training and deployment requirements as far as practicable'.

A new way for Reserves – how will the proposition be met?

There are two elements to the proposition – what Defence offers those who sign up as Reservists and what commitment it expects from them in return. The offer to Reserves, and the commitment expected of them, is captured in:

- Terms of Service (rules and regulations that include length of engagement, time on training, training standards, code of conduct and discipline) – what we need from you as a reservist and what you are committed to.
- Conditions of Service – reward and recognition a reservist will receive, including measures to balance reserve service with the requirements of civilian careers and families - what Defence gives to you.

What does this actually mean for me? What changes are we proposing?

As a reservist, you will see a number of changes proposed in the consultation document, including:

- The Reserve Forces will be trained to undertake additional roles, such as conflict prevention, as an essential integrated element of the UK's Armed Forces alongside the regular Armed Forces (section 2.31).
- You will be given greater notice of training and operational commitments; however, attendance at a number of designated training periods will be compulsory (section 2.34).
- Defence will work with employers to improve their understanding and recognition of the benefits your reserve service will bring them. This will enable a more supportive working environment for you in your civilian career (sections 3.19-3.22).
- In the future, your military training will be benchmarked and accredited against recognised civilian qualifications. This will also benefit your civilian employers through reduced training costs (section 3.25).
- You will have access to, and train with, current equipment (section 4.14).
- Defence will promote greater recognition of reservists as members of the Armed Forces within society (section 4.23)
- We will look at how we can better support your family, both during periods of training and deployment, and after your military service if required (section 4.25).

We want to hear your views on these proposals - the consultation closes 18 January – don't miss out.

To find out more about how the UK's Reserve Services are changing and why, see [Future Reserves Consultation](#). From here you will find the Consultation paper, and a link to the survey to comment on the proposals – you may answer as many or as few of the questions asked as you wish.