

From Brigadier M C van der Lande OBE



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**CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO UPDATE SI2005/859 (THE RESERVE FORCES CALL OUT AND RECALL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS)**

In the 2013 White Paper 'Reserves in the Future Force 2020: Valuable and Valued' Defence committed to improve the relationship between Defence and the employers of Reservists. We are seeking to develop a more transparent, open and honest relationship, and we have made good progress so far. Defence Relationship Management has been established, incentive payments of up to £500 per mobilised reservists per month for SMEs have been introduced, and annual communication between Reservists' Commanding Officers and line managers has been instigated. We are now seeking your views on how we can enhance an already existing element of support.

Employers and Reservists are entitled to claim financial assistance under SI859 for expenses occurring as a result of mobilisation. The regulations have not been updated for some time, and our consultation with interested parties has indicated that there are a number of ways in which they could be improved to meet the needs of employers. The proposed changes to the regulations outlined in the enclosed document are intended better to meet the needs of employers of mobilised Reservists. They also reduce the additional pay cap available to mobilised Reservists, which is currently set in excess of the current (or foreseen) requirement.

I would be grateful were you to take time to complete this consultation questionnaire. It is an important opportunity to improve the financial package Defence is able to offer employers and reservists when mobilised, and your input is crucial.

The consultation is due to run from 18 November 2014 to 17 December 2014, and regulations will be updated as a result next year.

**Hd FR20**