

Ministry of Defence

Votes A 2025-26

for the year ending 31st March 2026

Presented to the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for Defence by Command of His Majesty

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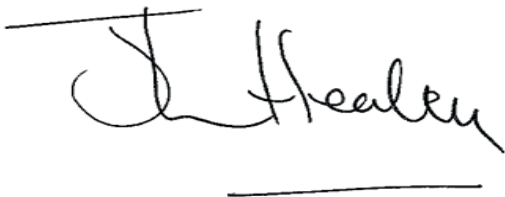
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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

VOTES A

2025-26

These Votes A seek Parliamentary authority for the maximum numbers of personnel to be maintained for service with the Armed Forces during the year ending 31st March 2026. These numbers do not constitute the Strength of the Armed Forces, which is published separately in the UK Armed Forces Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics. Other Ministry of Defence Requests for Resources appear as Supply Estimates.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Healey', is written over a horizontal line.

Ministry of Defence

The Rt Hon John Healey MP

11th February 2025

| VOTE A (Navy) | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| I: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE MAINTAINED FOR THE SERVICE IN THE REGULAR NAVAL AND MARINE FORCES | | | | | | |
| Thirty-nine thousand, eight hundred and fifty (39,850) | | | | | | |
| <i>2024-2025</i> | | | | <i>2025-2026</i> | | |
| <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> | | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| 7,000 | 24,350 | 31,350 | Royal Navy | 7,200 | 24,350 | 31,550 |
| 1,100 | 7,200 | 8,300 | Royal Marines | 1,100 | 7,200 | 8,300 |
| 8,100 | 31,550 | 39,650 | TOTAL | 8,300 | 31,550 | 39,850 |

NOTES

1. This Table of the Vote fixes the maximum number of officers, men and women of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, including those on terminal leave, who may be maintained for naval service at any time during the year.
2. The maximum number includes a margin of 10% to cover unforeseen contingencies.
3. The number includes personnel on loan service with government departments or other governments and personnel serving in international defence organisations.
4. Naval service does not have officers designate.

| VOTE A (Navy) | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| II: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE MAINTAINED FOR SERVICE IN THE RESERVE NAVAL AND MARINE FORCES | | | |
| (excluding those to be maintained as special members of these forces under Part V of the Reserve Forces Act 1996) | | | |
| Twenty-three thousand, four hundred and twenty (23,420) | | | |
| | <i>2025-2026</i> | | |
| | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Royal Fleet Reserve (naval officers and ratings) | 4,960 | 9,000 | 13,960 |
| Royal Fleet Reserve (marine officers and marines) | 470 | 2,610 | 3,080 |
| Royal Naval Reserve | 1,500 | 2,300 | 3,800 |
| Royal Marines Reserve | 120 | 1,250 | 1,370 |
| Royal Naval Reserve (List 7) | 1,210 | - | 1,210 |
| TOTAL | 8,260 | 15,160 | 23,420 |

NOTES

1. Those maintained on List 7 of the Royal Naval Reserve include Royal Naval Reserve temporary officers recruited to assist with University Royal Naval Units (URNUs), URNU undergraduates and members of the Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme (DTUS). List 7 personnel do not have a call out liability.

2. The Reserve Forces Act 1996 introduced three new categories of the Reservist: Full-Time Reserve Service, Additional Duties Commitment and High Readiness Reserve. The following notes detail the maxima of

personnel in these categories. These maxima are included in the totals shown in Table II above:

| 3. Numbers of members of each force who may at any time be in full-time service under section 24 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| – In the Royal Fleet Reserve as naval officers and ratings | 200 | 700 | 900 |
| – In the Royal Fleet Reserve as marine officers and marines | 50 | 200 | 250 |
| – In the Royal Naval Reserve | 180 | 150 | 330 |
| – In the Royal Marines Reserve | 50 | 100 | 150 |
| <hr/> Total in the reserve naval and marine forces who may at any time be in full-time service under section 24 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 | 480 | 1,150 | 1,630 |

| 4. Numbers of members of each force who may at any time be subject to additional duties commitment under section 25 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| – In the Royal Fleet Reserve as naval officers and ratings | 50 | 15 | 65 |
| – In the Royal Fleet Reserve as marine officers and marines | 15 | 10 | 25 |
| – In the Royal Naval Reserve | 100 | 40 | 140 |
| – In the Royal Marines Reserve | 30 | 40 | 70 |
| Total in the reserve naval and marine forces who may at any time be subject to additional duties commitments under section 25 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 | 195 | 105 | 300 |

| 5. Numbers of members of each force who may at any time be liable for call-out under special agreements as members of the High Readiness Reserve under Part IV of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| – In the Royal Fleet Reserve as naval officers and ratings | 15 | 40 | 55 |
| – In the Royal Fleet Reserve as marine officers and marines | 5 | 20 | 25 |
| – In the Royal Naval Reserve | 20 | 30 | 50 |
| – In the Royal Marines Reserve | 10 | 30 | 40 |
| Total in the reserve naval and marine forces who may at any time be liable for call-out under special agreements as members of the High Readiness Reserve under Part IV of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 | 50 | 120 | 170 |

| VOTE A (Navy) | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| III: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE MAINTAINED FOR SERVICE AS SPECIAL MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE NAVAL FORCES UNDER PART V OF THE RESERVE FORCES ACT 1996 | | | |
| Two thousand, four hundred and seventy (2,470) | | | |
| | <i>2025-2026</i> | | |
| | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Royal Naval Reserve | 850 | 1,620 | 2,470 |
| TOTAL | 850 | 1,620 | 2,470 |

NOTES

1. Members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) have a liability to become Special Members of the Reserve Naval Forces. Existing RFA personnel may become Special Reservists on a voluntary basis whereas new entrants are automatically enlisted as part of their terms and conditions of service.

| VOTE A (Army) | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------|---|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| I: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE MAINTAINED FOR ARMY SERVICE | | | | | | |
| Ninety-seven thousand, nine hundred and forty (97,940) | | | | | | |
| <i>2024-2025</i> | | | | <i>2025-2026</i> | | |
| <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> | | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| 14,430 | 78,220 | 92,650 | Army (Other than Services below) | 14,430 | 78,220 | 92,650 |
| 220 | 4,840 | 5,060 | Gurkhas and International troops abroad | 230 | 5,060 | 5,290 |
| 14,650 | 83,060 | 97,710 | TOTAL | 14,660 | 83,280 | 97,940 |

NOTES

1. This Table of the Vote fixes the maximum number of officers, men and women including those on terminal leave and also young and junior soldiers, who may be maintained for army service at any time during the year.
2. The maximum number includes a margin of 10% to cover unforeseen contingencies.
3. The number includes personnel on loan service with government departments or other governments and personnel serving in international defence organisations.
4. Officers includes up to 820 officers designate.

| VOTE A (Army) | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| II: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE MAINTAINED FOR SERVICE IN THE RESERVE LAND FORCES (excluding those to be maintained as special members of these forces under Part V of the Reserve Forces Act 1996) | | | |
| Sixty-seven thousand, five hundred and eighty (67,580) | | | |
| | <i>2025-2026</i> | | |
| | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Army Regular Reserve | 7,740 | 19,320 | 27,060 |
| Army Reserve | 9,020 | 31,500 | 40,520 |
| TOTAL | 16,760 | 50,820 | 67,580 |

NOTES

1. The totals of the Army Reserve include officers, men and women employed full-time but not Regular Army members of permanent staff who are included in Table 1.
2. The Defence Reform Act 2014 renamed the Army Reserve as the Regular Reserve and renamed the Territorial Army as the Army Reserve.
3. The Reserve Forces Act 1996 introduced three new categories of Reservist: Full-Time Reserve Service, Additional Duties Commitment and High Readiness Reserve. The following notes detail the maxima of personnel in these categories. These maxima are included in the totals shown in Table II above.

| 4. Numbers of members of each force who may at any time be in full-time service under section 24 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| – In the Army Regular Reserve | 850 | 2,080 | 2,930 |
| – In the Army Reserve | 870 | 1,870 | 2,740 |
| Total in the reserve land forces who may at any time be in full-time service under section 24 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 | 1,720 | 3,950 | 5,670 |

| 5. Numbers of members of each force who may at any time be subject to additional duties commitments under section 25 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| – In the Army Regular Reserve | 1,680 | 1,700 | 3,380 |
| – In the Army Reserve | 2,520 | 3,930 | 6,450 |
| Total in the reserve land forces who may at any time be subject to additional duties commitments under section 25 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 | 4,200 | 5,630 | 9,830 |

| 6. Numbers of members of each force who may at any time be liable for call-out under special agreements as members of the High Readiness reserve under Part IV of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| – In the Army Regular Reserve | 40 | 150 | 190 |
| – In the Army Reserve | 60 | 440 | 500 |
| Total in the reserve land forces who may at any time be liable for call-out under special agreements as members of the High Readiness reserve under Part IV of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 | 100 | 590 | 690 |

VOTE A (Army)

III: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE MAINTAINED FOR SERVICE AS SPECIAL MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE LAND FORCES UNDER PART V OF THE RESERVE FORCES ACT 1996

Nine hundred and forty (940)

| | <i>2025-2026</i> | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Army Regular Reserve | 30 | 150 | 180 |
| Army Reserve | 20 | 740 | 760 |
| TOTAL | 50 | 890 | 940 |

| VOTE A (Air Force) | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| I: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE MAINTAINED FOR AIR FORCE SERVICE | | | | | | |
| Thirty-five thousand and eight hundred (35,800) | | | | | | |
| <i>2024-2025</i> | | | | <i>2025-2026</i> | | |
| <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> | | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| 8,800 | 27,000 | 35,800 | Royal Air Force | 8,800 | 27,000 | 35,800 |
| 8,800 | 27,000 | 35,800 | TOTAL | 8,800 | 27,000 | 35,800 |

NOTES

1. This Table of the Vote fixes the maximum number of officers, men and women, including those on terminal leave, who may be maintained for air force service at any time during the year.
2. The maximum number includes a margin of 10% to cover unforeseen contingencies.
3. The number includes personnel on loan service with government departments or other governments and personnel serving in international defence organisations.

| VOTE A (Air Force) | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| II: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE MAINTAINED FOR SERVICE IN THE RESERVE AIR FORCES | | | |
| (excluding those to be maintained as special members of these forces under Part V of the Reserve Forces Act 1996) | | | |
| Seventeen thousand, four hundred and fifty (17,450) | | | |
| | <i>2025-2026</i> | | |
| | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Royal Air Force Reserve | 4,500 | 8,500 | 13,000 |
| Royal Auxiliary Air Force | 950 | 3,500 | 4,450 |
| TOTAL | 5,450 | 12,000 | 17,450 |

NOTES

1. The maximum for the Royal Air Force Reserve includes 400 officers and 5,300 men and women who have a Reserve liability, 3,100 officers in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (Training) for the purposes of service with the Air Training Corps, Air Experience Flight, Combined Cadet Force and Volunteer Gliding Schools. The Royal Air Force Reserve men and women category includes 1000 officer cadets serving with the University Air Squadrons.
2. The Reserve Forces Act 1996 introduced three new categories of Reservist: Full-Time Reserve Service, Additional Duties Commitment and High Readiness Reserve. The following notes detail the maxima of personnel in these categories. These maxima are included in the totals shown in Table II above.

| 3. Numbers of members of each force who may at any time be in full-time service under Section 24 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| – In the Royal Air Force Reserve | 580 | 710 | 1,290 |
| – In the Royal Auxiliary Air Force | 120 | 350 | 470 |
| Total in the reserve air forces who may at any time be in full-time service under Section 24 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | 600 | 1,060 | 1,760 |

| 4. Numbers of members of each force who may at any time be subject to additional duties commitments under Section 25 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| – In the Royal Air Force Reserve | 110 | 50 | 160 |
| – In the Royal Auxiliary Air Force | 30 | 30 | 60 |
| Total in the reserve air forces who may at any time be subject to additional duties commitments under Section 25 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | 140 | 80 | 220 |

| 5. Numbers of members of each force who may at any time be liable for call-out under special agreements as members of the High Readiness Reserve under Part IV of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| – In the Royal Air Force Reserve | - | - | - |
| – In the Royal Auxiliary Air Force | 40 | 60 | 100 |
| Total in the reserve air forces who may at any time be liable for call-out under special agreements as members of the High Readiness Reserve under Part IV of the Reserve Forces Act 1996: | 40 | 60 | 100 |

VOTE A (Air Force)

III: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE MAINTAINED FOR SERVICE AS SPECIAL MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE AIR FORCES UNDER PART V OF THE RESERVE FORCES ACT 1996

Two hundred and fifty (250)

| | <i>2025-2026</i> | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | <i>Officers</i> | <i>Men and Women</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Royal Air Force Reserve | 100 | 150 | 250 |
| Royal Auxiliary Air Force | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 100 | 150 | 250 |

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