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Ministry of Defence

# Votes A 2025-26

*for the year ending 31st March 2026*

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

*Ordered by The House of Commons to be printed  
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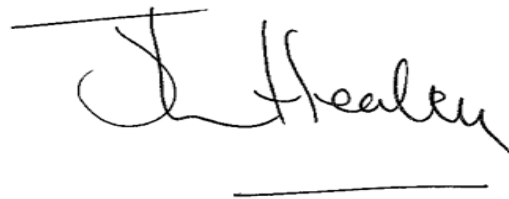
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**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
VOTES A**

2025-26

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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 centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style and is flanked by horizontal lines above and below it.

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)**

	2025-2026		
	<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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,260</b>	<b>15,160</b>	<b>23,420</b>

**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

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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
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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

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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

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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

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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

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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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>2,470</b>

**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)**

2024-2025				2025-2026		
<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)**

	2025-2026		
	<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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,760</b>	<b>50,820</b>	<b>67,580</b>

**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
<b>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</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>5,670</b>

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
<b>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</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>5,630</b>	<b>9,830</b>

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
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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
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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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>940</b>

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)**

	2025-2026		
	<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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,450</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>17,450</b>

**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:

- In the Royal Air Force Reserve	<i>Officers</i> 580	<i>Men and Women</i> 710	<i>Total</i> 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
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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:

- In the Royal Air Force Reserve	<i>Officers</i> 110	<i>Men and Women</i> 50	<i>Total</i> 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
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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
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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
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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)**

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

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