
Ministry of Defence

Votes A 2026-27

for the year ending 31st March 2027

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
9th February 2026*



© Crown copyright 2026

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/official-documents.

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

Analysis (Tri-Service)
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Floor 3 Zone M
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

or

E-mail: Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk and start your subject as “Votes A”

ISBN - 978-1-5286-6148-5

E03517375 02/26

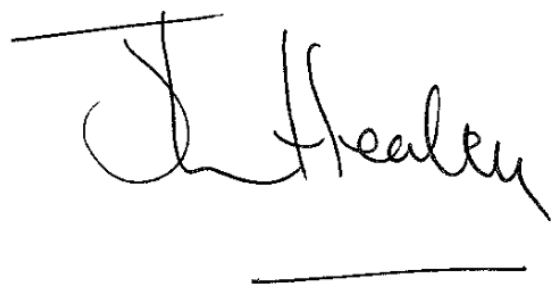
Printed on paper containing 40% recycled fibre content minimum

Printed in the UK by the HH Associates Ltd. on behalf of the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
VOTES A**

2026-27

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 2027. 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', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ministry of Defence

The Rt Hon John Healey MP

9th February 2026

VOTE A (Navy)
I: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE
MAINTAINED FOR THE SERVICE IN THE REGULAR NAVAL AND MARINE FORCES

Forty Thousand (40,000)

<i>2025-2026</i>				<i>2026-2027</i>		
<i>Officers</i>	<i>Men and Women</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Officers</i>	<i>Men and Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
7,200	24,350	31,550	Royal Navy	7,350	24,350	31,700
1,100	7,200	8,300	Royal Marines	1,100	7,200	8,300
8,300	31,550	39,850	TOTAL	8,450	31,550	40,000

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 MARINES FORCES (excluding those to be maintained as special members of these forces under Part V of the Reserve Forces Act 1996) Twenty-three thousand, five hundred (23,500)			
	2026-2027		
	<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	1,550	2,300	3,850
Royal Marines Reserve	150	1,250	1,400
Royal Naval Reserve (List 7)	1,210	-	1,210
TOTAL	8,340	15,160	23,500

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	250	800	1,050
- In the Royal Fleet Reserve as marine officers and marines	50	250	300
- In the Royal Naval Reserve	200	150	350
- In the Royal Marines Reserve	50	100	150
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	550	1,300	1,850

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>2026-2027</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-nine thousand, one hundred and eighty (99,180)						
2025-2026				2026-2027		
<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	79,200	93,630
230	5,060	5,290	Commonwealth, troops abroad and Gurkhas	250	5,300	5,550
14,660	83,280	97,940	TOTAL	14,680	84,500	99,180

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">VOTE A (Army)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">II: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE MAINTAINED FOR SERVICE IN THE RESERVE LAND FORCES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(excluding those to be maintained as special members of these forces under Part V of the Reserve Forces Act 1996)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sixty-eight thousand one hundred and sixty (68,160)</p>			
	<i>2026-2027</i>		
	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Men and Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
Army Regular Reserve	7,740	19,320	27,060
Army Reserve	9,130	31,970	41,100
TOTAL	16,870	51,290	68,160

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	920	2,120	3,040
- In the Army Reserve	890	1,900	2,790
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	1,810	4,020	5,830

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)

	2026-2027		
	Officers	Men and Women	Total
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, eight hundred (35,800)						
2025-2026				2026-2027		
<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.

<p style="text-align: center;">VOTE A (Air Force)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">II: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN TO BE MAINTAINED FOR SERVICE IN THE RESERVE AIR FORCES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(excluding those to be maintained as special members of these forces under Part V of the Reserve Forces Act 1996)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seventeen thousand, four hundred and fifty (17,450)</p>			
	2026-2027		
	<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 1,000 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:	700	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
<hr/>			
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
<hr/>			

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)

	2026-2027		
	<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

E03517375
978-1-5286-6148-5