



Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations QSD on 27 January 2020

On 27 January 2020, Lord de Mauley (Conservative) is due to ask Her Majesty's Government "what assessment they have made of the contribution of Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations to the work of the reserve forces and the cadets, to national defence and to the armed forces covenant".

Summary

- The Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations (RFCAs) give advice and assistance to the [Defence Council](#), and to the army, navy and air force on matters that concern reserves and cadets. They are central government bodies with crown status. RFCA business is publicly funded and delivered regionally.
- The RFCA is comprised of 13 individual associations which cover the UK. The associations are largely comparable with regional government boundaries.
- A council of RFCAs (CRFCA) has been constituted by the 13 individual RFCAs in order to provide central coordination.
- The RFCAs each have their own scheme of association, drawn up by the Defence Council, under the provisions of the Reserve Forces Act 1996. The schemes last for five years, after which re-constitution must take place.
- Each association is responsible for the wellbeing of the region's reserve forces and cadets, promoting the interests of the armed forces, and building relationships with the local community and employees. They work with the chains of command of the three services to deliver support to the reserves and cadets.
- RFCAs maintain and support reserve training centres, cadet centres and training areas within which the reserves and cadets of all three services can conduct their activities.
- The RFCA is required to report annually to Parliament on the state of the UK's reserve forces. The RFCA's [external scrutiny team was established to produce the annual report](#) into the condition of the reserves and the delivery of the [Future Reserves 2020 \(FR20\) programme](#). The RFCA also reports annually to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on the health of the cadet movement.
- In January 2019, the [MoD launched a review of the RFCAs](#). The review was set up to look into: the functions carried out by the RFCAs; their contribution to defence outputs; their efficiency; and potential new tasks the RFCAs may be best placed to deliver on behalf of defence. It was expected to last approximately nine months.
- The [Armed Forces Covenant](#) is a statement of the moral obligation which exists between the nation, the government and the armed forces in return for the sacrifices they make. Businesses and charitable and public sector organisations of all sizes that wish to support

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the armed forces community can sign the covenant. [Over 4,000 organisations are signatories](#). The network of regional RFCAs works with businesses and other organisations to ensure their covenant pledges are suitably tailored to meet the needs of the signatory and defence.

Sarah Tudor | 22 January 2020

Further Information

- The Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations, '[About Us](#)', accessed 21 January 2020

Information on the RFCAs' role, responsibilities and structure.

- Council of Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations, [Annual Report and Accounts 2017/18](#), December 2018, pp 16–42

Annual report of the RFCA setting out some of its key achievements in 2017/18.

- Ministry of Defence, '[Armed Forces Reserves: A Quick Guide](#)', 18 July 2016

Information and guidance from the government on: recruitment; roles and responsibilities; benefits; and the history of the reserves.

- Ministry of Defence, '[Cadet Forces and Ministry of Defence Youth Work](#)', 17 October 2016

Guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the cadet forces.

- Council of Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association, [External Scrutiny Team Annual Report 2019](#), July 2019, pp 7–16 and 37–9

The annual report of the RFCA's external scrutiny team on the progress of the FR20 programme.

- Ministry of Defence, [UK Armed Forces Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics: 1 October 2019](#), 21 November 2019, pp 1 and 9–10; and [Reserves Continuous Attitude Survey Results 2019](#), 20 June 2019, pp 1–14

Statistics on UK reserve forces for 2019, including strengths, intake and outflow; and a summary of the 2019 survey of volunteer reserves which covers satisfaction with various aspects of being a reservist.

- Ministry of Defence, [MoD Sponsored Cadet Forces Statistics: 1 April 2019](#), 30 May 2019, pp 1–7; and [Officer Cadet Survey 2018–19](#), September 2019, pp 6–13

Statistics on the number of cadets and adult volunteers in the cadet forces sponsored by the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The MoD sponsors the Sea Cadet Corps, Volunteer Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force

and Air Training Corps and the school-based Combined Cadet Force. The officer cadet survey provides statistics on officer cadets' experience of training, facilities, food, support, fairness of treatment and hopes for the future.

- Armed Forces Covenant, '[About](#)', accessed 21 January 2020

Overview of the covenant and information on the organisations that have signed it.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- House of Commons, '[Written Question: Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association](#)', 23 July 2019, 278904
- House of Commons, '[Written Question: Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association](#)', 23 July 2019, 278903
- [Debate on 'Armed Forces: Reserves'](#), HL Hansard, 21 June 2018, cols 2164–94
- [Debate on 'Schools: Cadet Expansion Programme'](#), HL Hansard, 18 June 2019, cols 745–66