



Reserve Forces Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 14

PART III

TRAINING AND OTHER DUTIES

Obligatory training

22 Training obligations of members of the reserve forces.

- (1) A member of a reserve force may, in accordance with orders or regulations under section 4, be required by virtue of this section, in any year, to train in the United Kingdom or elsewhere for—
 - (a) one or more periods not exceeding 16 days in aggregate; and
 - (b) such other periods as may be prescribed, none of which shall exceed 36 hours without the consent of the person concerned;and such a person may, while undergoing a period of training under this section, be attached to and trained with any body of Her Majesty's forces.
- (2) Such orders or regulations may, in particular, prescribe different periods under subsection (1)(b) for different forces or parts of a force.
- (3) This section has effect subject to section 23.

23 Power to exempt persons from or relax training obligations.

- (1) Orders or regulations under section 4 may provide for securing that persons of such descriptions as may be prescribed shall be exempted from liability to be required to undergo training under section 22.
- (2) Such orders or regulations may also provide for relaxing, in such cases as may be prescribed, the liability to be required to undergo training under section 22.

Changes to legislation: Reserve Forces Act 1996, Part III is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (3) Officers authorised for the purposes of this subsection by or in accordance with directions of the Defence Council may, in accordance with such orders or regulations—
- (a) exempt any unit or other group of members of a reserve force from liability to be required to undergo training under section 22; or
 - (b) relax that liability in the case of the unit or group.
- (4) A commanding officer may, in accordance with orders or regulations under section 4—
- (a) exempt any member of a reserve force who is under his command from liability to be required to undergo training under section 22; or
 - (b) relax that liability in the case of such a person.

Commitments to perform additional duties

24 Commitments to a period of ^{F1}full-time] service.

- (1) A member of a reserve force may enter into a commitment in writing under this section ^{F2}(a full-time service commitment)] to undertake a period of ^{F3}full-time] service of such duration as may be specified in the commitment.
- ^{F4}(1A) The period of service specified in a commitment under this section (whether originally, or by virtue of a variation under subsection (5)(a))—
- (a) may be a period of full-time service;
 - (b) so far as orders or regulations under section 4 permit, may—
 - (i) be a period of service on a part-time basis, or
 - (ii) include one or more periods of service on a part-time basis as well as one or more periods of full-time service.
- (1B) Orders or regulations under section 4 may enable a commitment under this section to contemplate periods of special or extended leave.]
- (2) A person who has entered into such a commitment—
- (a) shall be in ^{F5}full-time] service from the time specified in the commitment as the beginning of the period of ^{F5}full-time] service to be undertaken by him until the time at which he is released from that service;
 - ^{F6}(b)
 - (c) shall perform such duties while he is in ^{F7}full-time service][^{F7}service under the commitment] as he may, in accordance with the terms of the commitment and any orders or regulations under section 4, be required to perform.
- (3) A ^{F8}full-time service commitment][^{F8}commitment under this section]—
- (a) shall specify the duties to be performed by the person concerned (in general or specific terms) and the period for which he has undertaken to be in ^{F9}full-time service][^{F9}service under the commitment];
 - ^{F10}(aa) must specify the place at which the person is to begin performing duties;]
 - (b) may, to the extent permitted by orders or regulations under section 4, limit the area within which he may be required to perform duties; and
 - (c) may contain such other terms relating to the duties to be performed by that person as are included in accordance with orders or regulations under section 4.

Changes to legislation: Reserve Forces Act 1996, Part III is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (4) A person who is in [F11full-time service][F11service under a commitment under this section] may be required—
- (a) to serve with any of the regular services for the purposes of performing duties in accordance with the commitment [F12concerned]; and
 - (b) subject to any limitation in the commitment, to perform such duties anywhere in the world.
- (5) A [F13full-time service commitment][F13commitment under this section]—
- (a) may, with the consent of the member concerned, be varied in accordance with orders or regulations under section 4;
 - (b) may be revoked before the beginning of the specified period of [F14full-time] service by an authorised officer (whether at the request of the member concerned or otherwise) giving written notice to that effect to the member concerned; and
 - (c) shall terminate on the release of the member concerned from [F15full-time] service under the commitment.
- (6) A person in [F16full-time service][F16service under a commitment under this section] shall, if not released from service sooner, be entitled to be released from service with all convenient speed in the prescribed manner at the end of the period of service specified in the commitment.
- (7) Where a person in [F17full-time service][F17service under a commitment under this section] is accepted into permanent service under Part IV, V or VI—
- (a) his [F18full-time service][F18service under the commitment] shall cease while he is in permanent service; but
 - (b) if, on his release from permanent service, the period of [F19full-time] service undertaken by him [F20under the commitment] has not expired, he shall resume his [F21full-time service][F21service under the commitment] for the remainder of that period.
- (8) A person in [F22full-time service][F22service under a commitment under this section] shall not be liable to be required to undergo training under section 22.
- (9) The duties which a person in [F23full-time service][F23service under a commitment under this section] may be required to perform may include undertaking training.
- (10) In this section—

“authorised officer” means an officer authorised by or in accordance with directions of the Defence Council for the purposes of this section;

[F24“full-time service” means service under a full-time service commitment.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 24 heading omitted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\), ss. 9\(2\), 24\(1\)](#); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F2** Words in s. 24(1) omitted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\), ss. 9\(3\)\(a\), 24\(1\)](#); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F3** Word in s. 24(1) omitted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\), ss. 9\(3\)\(b\), 24\(1\)](#); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)

Changes to legislation: Reserve Forces Act 1996, Part III is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- F4** S. 24(1A)(1B) inserted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(4)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F5** Words in s. 24(2)(a) omitted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(5)(a)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F6** S. 24(2)(b) repealed (28.3.2009 for specified purposes, 31.10.2009 in so far as not already in force) by Armed Forces Act 2006 (c. 52), s. 383(2), Sch. 14 para. 30, **Sch. 17**; S.I. 2009/812, art. 3(a)(b) (with transitional provisions in S.I. 2009/1059); S.I. 2009/1167, art. 4
- F7** Words in s. 24(2)(c) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(5)(b)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F8** Words in s. 24(3) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(6)(a)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F9** Words in s. 24(3)(a) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(6)(b)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F10** S. 24(3)(aa) inserted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(6)(c)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F11** Words in s. 24(4) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(7)(a)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F12** Word in s. 24(4)(a) omitted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(7)(b)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F13** Words in s. 24(5) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(8)(a)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F14** Word in s. 24(5)(b) omitted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(8)(b)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F15** Word in s. 24(5)(c) omitted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(8)(c)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F16** Words in s. 24(6) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(9)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F17** Words in s. 24(7) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(10)(a)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F18** Words in s. 24(7)(a) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(10)(b)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F19** Word in s. 24(7)(b) omitted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(10)(c)(i)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F20** Words in s. 24(7)(b) inserted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(10)(c)(ii)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F21** Words in s. 24(7)(b) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(10)(c)(iii)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F22** Words in s. 24(8) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(11)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F23** Words in s. 24(9) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(12)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)
- F24** Words in s. 24(10) omitted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Armed Forces Act 2021 (c. 35), **ss. 9(13)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/471, reg. 2(c)

25 Additional duties commitments.

- (1) A member of a reserve force may enter into a commitment in writing under this section (an additional duties commitment) to perform such duties, for such period or periods, as may be specified in the commitment.
- (2) A person who has entered into an additional duties commitment, in relation to each period of duty contemplated by the commitment—

Changes to legislation: Reserve Forces Act 1996, Part III is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- ^{F25}(a)
- (b) [^{F26}shall, from any time specified in the commitment as the time at which he is to begin that period of duty until released from duty,] perform such duties as he may, in accordance with the terms of the commitment and any orders or regulations under section 4, be required to perform;
- (c) shall, if not released from duty sooner, be entitled to be released from duty with all convenient speed in the prescribed manner at the end of that period.

[^{F27}(2A) Subject to any provision made by orders or regulations under section 4, an additional duties commitment may provide for duties for a period to be performed on any basis, including full-time or part-time.]

- (3) An additional duties commitment—
- (a) shall specify—
- (i) the duties to be performed by the person concerned (in general or specific terms);
- (ii) the period or periods for which he is to perform duties;
- (iii) the time and place at which he is to begin performing duties or, if there is to be more than one period of duty, the times and places at which he is to begin performing duties on each such occasion;
- (b) may include terms requiring that person—
- (i) to perform any duties outside the United Kingdom; or
- (ii) to serve with any of the regular services for the purposes of performing any duties; and
- (c) may contain such other terms relating to the duties to be performed by that person as are included in accordance with orders or regulations under section 4.
- (4) An additional duties commitment—
- (a) may, with the consent of the member concerned, be varied in accordance with orders or regulations under section 4;
- (b) may be revoked at any time by an authorised officer (whether at the request of the member concerned or otherwise) giving written notice to that effect to the member concerned; and
- (c) shall terminate (if not revoked sooner) on the release of the member concerned from the last period of duty contemplated by the commitment.
- (5) A person’s duties under an additional duties commitment are in addition to any other obligations of his as a member of a reserve force.
- (6) The duties specified in an additional duties commitment may include undertaking training.
- (7) In this section “authorised officer” means an officer authorised by or in accordance with directions of the Defence Council for the purposes of this section.

Textual Amendments

F25 S. 25(2)(a) repealed (28.3.2009 for specified purposes, 31.10.2009 in so far as not already in force) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), s. 383(2), Sch. 14 para. 31(a), [Sch. 17](#); [S.I. 2009/812](#), art. 3(a)(b) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2009/1059](#)); [S.I. 2009/1167](#), art. 4

Changes to legislation: Reserve Forces Act 1996, Part III is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- F26** Words in s. 25(2)(b) substituted (28.3.2009 for specified purposes, 31.10.2009 in so far as not already in force) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), s. 383(2), [Sch. 14 para. 31\(b\)](#); S.I. 2009/812, art. 3(a)(b) (with transitional provisions in S.I. 2009/1059); S.I. 2009/1167, art. 4
- F27** [S. 25\(2A\)](#) inserted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\)](#), [ss. 9\(14\)](#), [24\(1\)](#); S.I. 2022/471, [reg. 2\(c\)](#)

26 Parliamentary control of commitments.

- (1) Parliament may authorise for each of the reserve forces a maximum number of officers and a maximum number of men who may at any time be—
- [^{F28}(a) in service under section 24 commitments; or]
- (b) subject to additional duties commitments which are in force.
- (2) Accordingly, the numbers of officers and men of a reserve force who are in [^{F29}full-time service][^{F29}service under section 24 commitments], or subject to additional duties commitments which are in force, shall not exceed any numbers for the time being authorised by Parliament for that force.
- (3) Any members of a reserve force who are in [^{F30}full-time service][^{F30}service under section 24 commitments] or who are subject to additional duties commitments shall not be reckoned in any numbers for the time being authorised by Parliament for any of the regular services.

Textual Amendments

- F28** [S. 26\(1\)\(a\)](#) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\)](#), s. 24(1), [Sch. 2 para. 3\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 2 para. 10](#)); S.I. 2022/471, [reg. 2\(c\)](#)
- F29** Words in s. 26(2) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\)](#), s. 24(1), [Sch. 2 para. 3\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 2 para. 10](#)); S.I. 2022/471, [reg. 2\(c\)](#)
- F30** Words in s. 26(3) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\)](#), s. 24(1), [Sch. 2 para. 3\(4\)](#) (with [Sch. 2 para. 10](#)); S.I. 2022/471, [reg. 2\(c\)](#)

Voluntary activities

27 Voluntary training and other duties.

- (1) Nothing in this Part prevents a member of a reserve force—
- (a) undertaking any voluntary training in the United Kingdom or elsewhere that is made available to him as a member of that force;
- (b) undertaking any voluntary training or performing other voluntary duties in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, being training or duties undertaken or performed at his own request or following a request made to him by or on behalf of his commanding officer.
- (2) Orders or regulations under section 4 may make provision as to the provision and use of training facilities for members of reserve forces and otherwise in connection with the undertaking of training or other duties as mentioned in subsection (1) of this section.

^{F31}(3)

Changes to legislation: Reserve Forces Act 1996, Part III is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

Textual Amendments

- F31** S. 27(3) repealed (28.3.2009 for specified purposes, 31.10.2009 in so far as not already in force) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), s. 383(2), Sch. 14 para. 32, [Sch. 17](#); S.I. 2009/812, art. 3(a)(b) (with transitional provisions in S.I. 2009/1059); S.I. 2009/1167, art. 4

Changes to legislation:

Reserve Forces Act 1996, Part III is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 2 para. 3(2A) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 3 para. 65](#)