



Ministry of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

THE RT HON BARONESS GOLDIE DL
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

MSU/4/8/1/1/is

23rd November 2021

Dear Des,

During Grand Committee stage of the Armed Forces Bill on the 8 November, you asked why Army regulations regarding the minimum service period, discriminate against younger recruits.

The aim of the Army's regulations is not to discriminate against younger recruits. All of the policies covering Service personnel's Terms and Conditions of Service are carefully developed, working with the Armed Forces, to ensure that they are fair, legal and fit for purpose, both for the individual and for the Service in which they volunteer to Serve. The primary reason for the minimum period of Service in the Army for those under 18, is that the Army needs to ensure that it maintains the right workforce levels to enable it deploy personnel over the age of 18 on operations at home and abroad. Recruits under the age of 18 are not fully deployable on operations and their notice period therefore runs from the point at which they become fully deployable alongside those who enlist after their 18th birthday. The Army uses this time to provide young recruits with world class training that helps to develop well-rounded, junior soldiers and officers, both morally and conceptually, which in turn brings benefit to both the individual, the Army and wider Society.

I hope my response will help to allay your concerns.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,
Annabel

BARONESS GOLDIE DL

Lord Browne of Ladyton
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW