



Ministry  
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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**BARONESS GOLDIE DL**  
**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS**

4/8/1/1/ap

29 September 2023

Dear Hugh,

During the Lord Soames debate on the role of the Armed Forces and the UK's Defence Policy on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, you asked about recruitment and retention challenges in the Army.

The Army is continuing to implement Future Soldier which will see a Whole Force of over 100,000 comprising 73,000 Regulars and 30,100 Reserves.

How they are used, not what number they total, will define our success. Plans are underway to combine improved inflow and improved retention to address and maintain resilient growth and we will of course draw on the bold recommendations of the Haythornthwaite Review.

I hope this explains the position.

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

*Yours sincerely,  
Annabel Su Gowie*

**BARONESS GOLDIE DL**

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