

ALISTAIR CARNS DSO OBE MC MP
Minister for Veterans and People

Our ref: PQW/24-
25/2025/16500/16507/16511/16512/16514/16521
Your ref: 64816/7/8/9/ 64284/5

20 August 2025

Dear James,

In my response to your Parliamentary Questions UINs 64816/7/8/9/
64284/5 you were promised a written answer to the following questions:

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many reserve service days were completed by the Volunteer Reserves in the last five financial years by service. 64816

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the cost to his Department was of volunteer reserve pay excluding annual bounties in the last five financial years by service. 64817

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the cost to his Department was of the volunteer reserve annual bounty in the last five financial years by service. 64818

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many volunteer reservists received an annual bounty in the last five financial years by (a) service and (b) rank. 64819

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many volunteer reservists completed (a) up to 18, (b) 19 to 26 and (c) over 27 reserve service days in the last five financial years by service. 64824

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many reserve service days were completed by the Volunteer Reserves in the last five financial years by rank. 64825

I am now in a position to reply.

Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge the unique contribution our Reserve Forces make to Defence. They help the UK Armed Forces meet the threats we face at home and overseas, with the scale, skills, agility and connection to society that we need, in a cost-effective way. The diversity of knowledge, skills, experience, and behaviours that Reserves bring from their outside jobs are an invaluable strength.

We are committed to implementing the recommendations of the Strategic Defence Review (SDR) to boost the Reserve Forces over the coming years. This includes delivering a range of measures to increase the numbers of the Active Reserve by 20%, when funding allows.

As part of our response to this challenge, we are also reinvigorating the Strategic Reserve (i.e. ex-Regulars, with a recall liability and those who can only be recalled to their former Service in times of national danger); a key capability during the Cold War.

The detailed data you have requested is provided in the attached tables at Annex A.

A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Carns', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Annex A

The following table shows the cost of Training Night and Annual Camp Day payments by financial year, as at 4 July 2025.

Financial Year	NAVY	ARMY	RAF	Grand Total
2020/21	£8,516,243.38	£93,179,444.38	£13,353,547.26	£115,049,235.02
2021/22	£9,935,519.90	£100,920,114.16	£14,981,931.49	£125,837,565.55
2022/23	£10,533,770.74	£108,424,048.76	£15,841,087.04	£134,798,906.54
2023/24	£12,020,491.72	£113,124,126.96	£17,188,544.63	£142,333,163.31
2024/25	£12,906,555.12	£104,670,428.61	£17,808,544.09	£135,385,527.82

The following table shows the cost of Annual Bounty Payment or Retro Annual Bounty payments by financial year, as at 4 July 2025.

Financial Year	NAVY	ARMY	RAF	Grand Total
2020/21	£3,010,670.15	£25,042,359.95	£3,397,116.48	£31,450,146.58
2021/22	£3,218,090.08	£26,494,959.47	£3,403,784.64	£33,116,834.19
2022/23	£3,221,586.20	£24,768,565.77	£3,653,293.20	£31,643,445.17
2023/24	£2,895,355.46	£24,871,860.02	£3,792,729.24	£31,559,944.72
2024/25	£3,062,407.95	£25,824,767.39	£4,002,380.94	£32,889,556.28

The following data represents distinct Service Personnel in receipt of Annual Bounty Payment or Retro Annual Bounty payments by financial year, as at 4 July 2025. Therefore, a service person may be counted in multiple ranks but is only accounted for once in the total figure.

Financial Year	NATO Rank	NAVY	ARMY	RAF	Grand Total
2020/21	OF7	-	4	4	8
	OF6	2	12	20	34
	OF5	8	77	4	89
	OF4	64	390	78	532
	OF3	326	1,341	148	1,813
	OF2	223	1,000	186	1,408
	OF1	164	649	24	837
	OF0	270	1,602	569	2,441
	OR9	81	207	117	405
	OR8	15	950	-	965
	OR7	215	1,037	112	1,363
	OR6	184	1,444	186	1,814
	OR4	194	2,218	291	2,703
	OR3	33	2,568	38	2,639
	OR2	420	4,328	955	5,703
20/21 Total		2,152	17,085	2,704	21,937

Financial Year	NATO Rank	NAVY	ARMY	RAF	Grand Total
2021/22	OF7	-	4	4	8
	OF6	1	14	21	36
	OF5	8	84	13	105
	OF4	66	374	92	532
	OF3	316	1,332	154	1,802
	OF2	219	1,036	192	1,447
	OF1	189	651	24	864
	OF0	225	1,259	424	1,908
	OR9	82	199	116	397
	OR8	17	926	-	943
	OR7	196	1,023	105	1,324
	OR6	172	1,335	184	1,691
	OR4	197	2,151	290	2,638
	OR3	33	2,546	36	2,615
	OR2	522	4,452	920	5,894
21/22 Total		2241	17,370	2,575	22,186

Financial Year	NATO Rank	NAVY	ARMY	RAF	Grand Total
2022/23	OF7	-	4	6	10

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	OF6	-	17	22	39
	OF5	10	82	14	106
	OF4	69	358	99	526
	OF3	293	1,247	155	1,695
	OF2	222	965	191	1,378
	OF1	176	596	19	791
	OF0	225	1,299	426	1,950
	OR9	68	201	119	388
	OR8	29	891	-	920
	OR7	176	1,016	125	1,317
	OR6	190	1,313	198	1,701
	OR4	209	2,082	298	2,588
	OR3	34	2,392	37	2,463
	OR2	483	3,841	929	5,248
22/23 Total		2139	15,709	2,600	20,442

Financial Year	NATO Rank	NAVY	ARMY	RAF	Grand Total
2023/24	OF7	-	3	4	7
	OF6	-	16	25	41
	OF5	7	78	15	100
	OF4	71	349	103	523
	OF3	245	1,211	148	1,604
	OF2	201	927	186	1,313
	OF1	198	593	14	805
	OF0	256	1,234	397	1,887
	OR9	58	185	127	370
	OR8	32	821	-	853
	OR7	162	947	114	1,223
	OR6	161	1,175	207	1,543
	OR4	176	1,902	273	2,351
	OR3	33	2,179	31	2,243
	OR2	334	3,679	869	4,882
23/24 Total		1,895	14,894	2,485	19,271

Financial Year	NATO Rank	NAVY	ARMY	RAF	Grand Total
2024/25	OF7	1	5	7	13
	OF6	-	15	22	37
	OF5	8	77	19	104

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	OF4	80	342	95	517
	OF3	236	1201	145	1,582
	OF2	180	960	175	1,315
	OF1	177	597	17	791
	OF0	268	1061	359	1,688
	OR9	63	183	119	365
	OR8	41	771	-	812
	OR7	159	935	129	1,223
	OR6	154	1116	223	1,493
	OR4	166	1799	290	2,254
	OR3	33	2200	40	2,273
	OR2	357	3563	815	4,730
24/25 Total		1,869	1,4442	2,422	18,724

The following table shows the sum of Training Night and Annual Camp days taken as at 4 July 2025.

Financial Year	Pay Element Name	NAVY	ARMY	RAF	Grand Total
2020/21	Annual Camp	22,096.00	182,372.00	14,232.00	218,700.00
	Training Night	57,431.50	790,939.25	104,297.50	952,668.25
2020/21 Total		79,527.50	973,311.25	118,529.50	1,171,368.25
2021/22	Annual Camp	43,674.00	236,464.00	22,345.00	302,483.00
	Training Night	57,508.50	843,063.50	117,917.50	1,018,489.50
2021/22 Total		101,182.50	1,079,527.50	140,262.50	1,320,972.50
2022/23	Annual Camp	45,149.00	226,212.00	30,780.00	302,141.00
	Training Night	56,363.50	887,951.75	116,748.50	1,061,063.75
2022/23 Total		101,512.50	1,114,163.75	147,528.50	1,363,204.75
2023/24	Annual Camp	50,070.00	227,005.00	32,231.00	309,306.00
	Training Night	56,482.00	856,837.75	116,811.25	1,030,131.00
2023/24 Total		106,552.00	1,083,842.75	149,042.25	1,339,437.00

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2024/25	Annual Camp	51,925.00	208,241.00	28,859.00	289,025.00
	Training Night	56,031.00	720,514.25	112,953.25	889,498.50
2024/25 Total		107,956.00	928,755.25	141,812.25	1,178,523.50

The following table shows distinct counts of Service Personnel broken down by the sum of their Training Night and Annual Camp days taken. Where an individual held more than one service across a financial year, the service with the highest days worked was counted.

Financial Year	Days Worked	NAVY	ARMY	RAF	Grand Total
2020/21	Up to 18	2,906	10,665	2,203	15,774
	19 to 26	419	3,210	453	4,082
	Over 27	842	12,876	1,406	15,124
2020/21 Total		4,167	26,751	4,062	34,980
2021/22	Up to 18	2,543	10,314	1,885	14,742
	19 to 26	607	2,851	558	4,016
	Over 27	1,255	14,551	1,900	17,706
2021/22 Total		4,405	27,716	4,343	36,464
2022/23	Up to 18	2,137	8,552	1,589	12,278
	19 to 26	526	2,510	509	3,545
	Over 27	1,395	14,708	2,181	18,284
2022/23 Total		4,058	25,770	4,279	34,107
2023/24	Up to 18	1,878	7,996	1,404	11,278
	19 to 26	476	2,106	489	3,071
	Over 27	1,535	14,415	2,254	18,204
2023/24 Total		3,889	24,517	4,147	32,553
2024/25	Up to 18	1,690	8,231	1,328	11,249
	19 to 26	505	2,202	500	3,207
	Over 27	1,566	13,289	2,119	16,974
2024/25 Total		3,761	23,722	3,947	31,430

The following table shows the sum of Training Night and Annual Camp days as at 4 July 2025.

Financial Year	NATO Rank	Annual Camp	Training Night	Grand Total
2020/21	OF7	0.00	1,724.75	1,724.75
	OF6	0.00	4,366.75	4,366.75

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	OF5	79.00	11,043.25	11,122.25
	OF4	1,598.00	37,698.50	39,296.50
	OF3	9,565.00	107,011.00	116,576.00
	OF2	10,042.00	64,682.00	74,724.00
	OF1	14,457.00	35,392.25	49,849.25
	OF0	6,337.00	56,488.25	62,825.25
	OR9	2,463.00	29,796.25	32,259.25
	OR8	8,139.00	61,568.25	69,707.25
	OR7	11,968.00	75,368.00	87,336.00
	OR6	16,636.00	85,601.25	102,237.25
	OR4	26,080.00	103,424.75	129,504.75
	OR3	28,333.00	91,394.75	119,727.75
	OR2	83,003.00	187,108.25	270,111.25
2020/21 Total		218,700.00	952,668.25	1,171,368.25
2021/22	OF7	6.00	1,780.00	1,786.00
	OF6	0.00	4,557.50	4,557.50
	OF5	169.00	11,387.50	11,556.50
	OF4	2,379.00	38,656.75	41,035.75
	OF3	16,355.00	103,185.75	119,540.75
	OF2	15,357.00	63,262.75	78,619.75
	OF1	17,592.00	35,171.75	52,763.75
	OF0	26,740.00	83,593.50	110,333.50
	OR9	3,935.00	31,859.75	35,794.75
	OR8	11,758.00	63,730.50	75,488.50
	OR7	16,875.00	74,935.00	91,810.00
	OR6	22,884.00	84,237.75	107,121.75
	OR4	32,992.00	109,793.25	142,785.25
	OR3	33,689.00	99,498.75	133,187.75
	OR2	101,752.00	212,839.00	314,591.00
2021/22 Total		302,483.00	1,018,489.50	1,320,972.50
2022/23	OF7	0.00	1,983.50	1,983.50
	OF6	0.00	4,756.50	4,756.50
	OF5	186.00	12,639.50	12,825.50
	OF4	2,761.00	39,633.25	42,394.25
	OF3	16,056.00	109,889.75	125,945.75
	OF2	15,626.00	65,450.50	81,076.50
	OF1	18,292.00	37,610.00	55,902.00
	OF0	28,790.00	108,532.00	137,322.00
	OR9	3,998.00	32,705.00	36,703.00
	OR8	11,206.00	64,372.25	75,578.25
	OR7	17,476.00	76,780.25	94,256.25

	OR6	21,981.00	87,028.50	109,009.50
	OR4	34,519.00	112,728.25	147,247.25
	OR3	32,767.00	105,990.75	138,757.75
	OR2	98,483.00	200,963.75	299,446.75
2022/23 Total		302,141.00	1,061,063.75	1,363,204.75
2023/24	OF7	0.00	1,659.75	1,659.75
	OF6	0.00	5,198.00	5,198.00
	OF5	167.00	13,732.75	13,899.75
	OF4	3,232.00	40,309.25	43,541.25
	OF3	16,617.00	105,444.00	122,061.00
	OF2	16,044.00	66,992.50	83,036.50
	OF1	17,785.00	39,247.00	57,032.00
	OF0	31,662.00	100,024.00	131,686.00
	OR9	3,740.00	30,675.50	34,415.50
	OR8	11,018.00	61,698.75	72,716.75
	OR7	17,693.00	71,174.25	88,867.25
	OR6	21,855.00	86,272.25	108,127.25
	OR4	33,478.00	108,028.75	141,506.75
	OR3	34,991.00	102,277.00	137,268.00
	OR2	101,024.00	197,397.25	298,421.25
2023/24 Total		309,306.00	1,030,131.00	1,339,437.00
2024/25	OF7	0.00	1,690.00	1,690.00
	OF6	0.00	5,468.00	5,468.00
	OF5	158.00	12,678.75	12,836.75
	OF4	2,452.00	40,380.75	42,832.75
	OF3	14,384.00	96,452.50	110,836.50
	OF2	15,556.00	63,558.75	79,114.75
	OF1	16,943.00	32,205.75	49,148.75
	OF0	31,007.00	78,577.75	109,584.75
	OR9	3,574.00	29,348.00	32,922.00
	OR8	9,458.00	49,831.75	59,289.75
	OR7	16,293.00	59,542.75	75,835.75
	OR6	20,344.00	69,708.00	90,052.00
	OR4	31,442.00	93,774.75	125,216.75
	OR3	32,873.00	87,395.25	120,268.25
	OR2	94,541.00	168,885.75	263,426.75
2024/25 Total		289,025.00	889,498.50	1,178,523.50