



Reserve Forces Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 14

PART I

THE RESERVE FORCES

Maintenance and composition

2 Membership of the reserve forces.

- (1) The reserve forces shall each consist of officers and men.
- (2) The men of the Royal Fleet Reserve, the [^{F1}Regular Reserve] and the Air Force Reserve (referred to in this Act as “the ex-regular reserve forces”) may only be—
 - (a) men transferred to that force under [^{F2}regulations made under section 331 of the Armed Forces Act 2006;]
 - (b) men enlisted or re-engaged in that force.
- (3) The men of the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Marines Reserve, the [^{F3}Army Reserve] and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force (referred to in this Act as “the volunteer reserve forces”) may only be men enlisted or re-engaged in that force.
- (4) In this Act, any reference (however expressed) to a man of any of the reserve forces is a reference to a person of either sex who is a member of that force and is of or below the rate or rank of warrant officer.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in Act substituted (1.10.2014) by [Defence Reform Act 2014 \(c. 20\), s. 44\(3\)\(a\)\(4\), 50\(1\)](#) (with [s. 49\(4\), Sch. 7 para. 12\(3\)](#)); [S.I. 2014/2370, art. 4\(a\)](#)
- F2** Words in s. 2(2)(a) 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. 25](#); [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, Section 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 04 June 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](#)

F3 Words in Act substituted (1.10.2014) by Defence Reform Act 2014 (c. 20), s. 44(3)(b)(4), 50(1) (with s. 49(4), Sch. 7 para. 12(3)); S.I. 2014/2370, art. 4(a)

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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](#)