

Armed Forces Bill

SECOND MARSHALLED LIST OF AMENDMENTS TO BE MOVED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

The amendments have been marshalled in accordance with the Instruction of 6th July 2026, as follows –

Clauses 1 to 3	Clauses 32 to 36
Schedule 1	Schedule 5
Clauses 4 and 5	Clauses 37 and 38
Schedule 2	Schedule 6
Clauses 6 and 7	Clauses 39 to 46
Schedule 3	Schedule 7
Clauses 8 to 31	Clauses 47 to 56
Schedule 4	Title

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

**Amendment
No.**

After Clause 36

LORD COAKER

38 After Clause 36, insert the following new Clause –

“Service of notices by email

- (1) RFA 1996 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 32 (call out of persons who have entered into special arrangements) –
 - (a) after subsection (6) insert –
 - “(6A) A notice under this section may also be served on a person by email by sending it to –
 - (a) the last known email address used by that person as a means for communicating with them, or
 - (b) if there is no such address, an email address by means of which there are reasonable grounds to believe that an email sent to that address will come to the attention of the person,

and such a notice is, unless the contrary is proved, to be treated as having been received on the day following the day on which the email is sent.”;

(b) in subsection (7) after “subsection (6)” insert “or (6A)”.

(3) In section 43 (call out of special members) –

(a) after subsection (7) insert –

“(7A) A notice under this section may also be served on a person by email by sending it to –

(a) the last known email address used by that person as a means for communicating with them, or

(b) if there is no such address, an email address by means of which there are reasonable grounds to believe that an email sent to that address will come to the attention of the person,

and such a notice is, unless the contrary is proved, to be treated as having been received on the day following the day on which the email is sent.”;

(b) in subsection (8) after “subsection (7)” insert “or (7A)”.

(4) In section 58 (call out of members of a reserve force on authority of call-out order) –

(a) after subsection (7) insert –

“(7A) A notice under this section may also be served on a person by email by sending it to –

(a) the last known email address used by that person as a means for communicating with them, or

(b) if there is no such address, an email address by means of which there are reasonable grounds to believe that an email sent to that address will come to the attention of the person,

and such a notice is, unless the contrary is proved, to be treated as having been received on the day following the day on which the email is sent.”;

(b) in subsection (8) after “subsection (7)” insert “or (7A)”.

(5) In section 70 (recall of persons on authority of recall order) –

(a) after subsection (7) insert –

“(7A) A notice under this section may also be served on a person by email by sending it to –

(a) the last known email address used by that person as a means for communicating with them, or

(b) if there is no such address, an email address by means of which there are reasonable grounds to believe that an email sent to that address will come to the attention of the person,

and such a notice is, unless the contrary is proved, to be treated as having been received on the day following the day on which the email is sent.”;

(b) in subsection (8) after “subsection (7)” insert “or (7A)”.

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause enables certain notices given under the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to be sent to persons by email in addition to the current provisions of the Act enabling service by post.

Schedule 5

LORD COAKER

- 39 Schedule 5, page 129, line 28, leave out “fourth” and insert “third”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment makes a drafting correction.

Clause 38

BARONESS GOLDIE
THE EARL OF MINTO
LORD DE MAULEY

The above-named Lords give notice of their intention to oppose the Question that Clause 38 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement

This notice to oppose clause 38 and the notice to oppose Schedule 6 in the name of Baroness Goldie would remove the provisions which reorganise the Reserve and Cadet Associations into a new non-departmental public body.

After Clause 38

LORD HARLECH
LORD DE MAULEY

- 40 After Clause 38, insert the following new Clause—

“Employer policies on the employment of members of the reserve forces

- (1) An employer to which this section applies must prepare, maintain and publish a policy on the employment of members of the reserve forces.
- (2) The policy must make provision about—
 - (a) time off for reserve forces training, including any entitlement under section 50A of the Employment Rights Act 1996;
 - (b) the treatment of a period of permanent service under a call-out order or a recall order for the purposes of pay, pension, seniority and continuity of employment;
 - (c) reinstatement under the Reserve Forces (Safeguard of Employment) Act 1985;
 - (d) the post responsible for the operation of the policy;

- (e) how an employee may make a request, or raise a complaint, under it.
- (3) The employer must make the policy accessible to every employee and, where it maintains a website, publish it there.
- (4) The employer must review the policy at least once every three years.
- (5) This section applies to an employer that employed, on average, 50 or more persons in the United Kingdom during the preceding financial year.
- (6) The Secretary of State must issue guidance for the purposes of this section, which must include a model policy, and the employer must have regard to it.
- (7) The Secretary of State must, each calendar year, lay before Parliament a report on compliance with this section.
- (8) A failure to comply with this section does not give rise to any liability in civil proceedings.
- (9) In this section “member of the reserve forces” has the meaning given by section 1 of RFA 1996.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require employers with 50 or more employees to publish and maintain a policy on the employment of reservists. It carries no sanction and no civil liability. It puts on a statutory basis an existing requirement of Silver and Gold employers under the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.

LORD HARLECH
BARONESS PENN
LORD DE MAULEY

41 After Clause 38, insert the following new Clause —

“Right to time off for reserve forces training

- (1) The Employment Rights Act 1996 is amended as follows.
- (2) After section 50 insert —

“50A Right to time off for reserve forces training

- (1) An employer must permit an employee who is a member of a reserve force to take time off during the employee’s working hours to undertake relevant reserve forces training.
- (2) “Relevant reserve forces training” means training which the employee is required or authorised to undertake under section 22 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 and which consists of —
 - (a) the annual period of continuous training, or
 - (b) a course of instruction leading to promotion, or to the award of a qualification recognised by the Defence Council for that purpose.

- (3) An employee is not entitled to time off under this section unless continuously employed by the employer for not less than 26 weeks ending with the day on which notice is given under subsection (5).
 - (4) The entitlement is ten working days in any leave year, reduced proportionately in the case of an employee who does not work full-time.
 - (5) The employee must give the employer notice in writing specifying the dates on which and the purpose for which the time off is to be taken, not less than 28 days before the first of those dates or, where that is not reasonably practicable, as soon as it is.
 - (6) The employer may require a certificate, signed by the employee's commanding officer or by an officer authorised by the commanding officer, confirming the purpose and duration of the training.
 - (7) This section confers no entitlement to remuneration, and does not prevent an employer permitting time off where it is not required to do so.
 - (8) Time off taken under a contractual entitlement for a purpose within subsection (2) counts towards, and does not increase, the entitlement under this section.
 - (9) This section does not apply to an employer that employed, on average, fewer than ten persons in the United Kingdom during the preceding financial year.
 - (10) In this section "leave year" has the meaning given by regulation 13(3) of the Working Time Regulations 1998 and "member of a reserve force" has the meaning given by section 1 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996."
- (3) In section 51(1), after "section 50" insert "or 50A".

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would give reservists a right to ten days' unpaid leave a year for annual continuous training and promotion courses, so that such training need not be taken from annual leave. The right would arise once an employee has been with their civilian employer for 26 weeks, and would not apply to employers with fewer than ten employees. Ten days is already the Gold standard under the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, and the Civil Service has provided paid leave of this kind since 2012.

LORD HARLECH
BARONESS PENN
LORD DE MAULEY

42

After Clause 38, insert the following new Clause —

"Refusal of employment on grounds of membership of the reserve forces

- (1) It is unlawful to refuse a person employment because that person is, has been, or proposes to become a member of the reserve forces, or is or may become liable to be called out or recalled for service.

- (2) A person is refused employment if the prospective employer –
 - (a) refuses or deliberately omits to entertain or process an application or enquiry,
 - (b) causes the person to withdraw or cease to pursue an application,
 - (c) refuses or deliberately omits to offer employment,
 - (d) makes an offer on terms which no reasonable employer wishing to fill the post would offer, and which is not accepted, or
 - (e) withdraws an offer, or causes the person not to accept it.
- (3) It is unlawful for an employment agency to refuse a person any of its services for a reason falling within subsection (1).
- (4) A person refused employment or services in contravention of this section may complain to an employment tribunal within six months of the conduct complained of, or within such further period as the tribunal considers reasonable where it was not reasonably practicable to complain in time.
- (5) Where the tribunal finds the complaint well founded it must make a declaration to that effect, and may award compensation, including compensation for injury to feelings, of such amount as it considers just and equitable, and may recommend action to obviate or reduce the adverse effect of the conduct complained of.
- (6) Where the complainant proves facts from which the tribunal could conclude, in the absence of any other explanation, that this section was contravened, the tribunal must uphold the complaint unless the respondent shows that the conduct was in no sense whatsoever on a ground falling within subsection (1).
- (7) In this section “member of the reserve forces” has the meaning given by section 1 of RFA 1996 and “employment agency” has the meaning given by section 13(2) of the Employment Agencies Act 1973.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would make it unlawful to refuse a person employment because they are, or may become, a reservist, with a remedy in the employment tribunal. Existing protection is confined to dismissal, so a job applicant has none. The clause follows the model used for trade union membership in Part III of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

LORD HARLECH
BARONESS PENN
LORD DE MAULEY

43

After Clause 38, insert the following new Clause –

“Detriment on grounds of membership of the reserve forces

- (1) A worker has the right not to be subjected to any detriment by any act, or any deliberate failure to act, by their employer on a ground falling within section (*Refusal of employment on grounds of membership of the reserve forces*)(1).
- (2) This section does not apply where the detriment amounts to dismissal.
- (3) Subsections (4) to (6) of that section apply to a complaint under this section.

- (4) In this section “worker” and “employer” have the meanings given by section 230 of the Employment Rights Act 1996.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would protect reservists from detriment short of dismissal, such as the denial of promotion or the withdrawal of duties, on the ground of their reserve service. Dismissal is already addressed by the Reserve Forces (Safeguard of Employment) Act 1985 and section 48 of the Defence Reform Act 2014.

LORD HARLECH
LORD DE MAULEY

44 After Clause 38, insert the following new Clause —

“Self-employed members of the reserve forces

- (1) It is unlawful to subject a member of the reserve forces to a detriment on a ground falling within section (*Refusal of employment on grounds of membership of the reserve forces*)(1) by —
- (a) refusing to enter into, terminating, or varying to that person’s disadvantage, a contract for the provision of services, or
 - (b) refusing that person admission to a partnership, expelling that person from a partnership, or subjecting that person to any other detriment in relation to a partnership.
- (2) Subsections (4) to (6) of that section apply to a complaint under this section.
- (3) The Secretary of State must, within twelve months of the day on which this Act is passed, review the financial support available to self-employed members of the reserve forces in respect of periods of training, and lay a report of the review before Parliament.
- (4) The review must consider the case for a scheme of financial assistance to self-employed members of the reserve forces, and to businesses in which such members hold a controlling interest, comparable to schemes operated in Australia and Canada.
- (5) In carrying out the review the Secretary of State must consult representative bodies of the self-employed and of small businesses, the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, and such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would extend protection to self-employed reservists in relation to contracts for services and partnerships, and would require a review of the financial support available to them for training.

LORD HARLECH
LORD DE MAULEY

45 After Clause 38, insert the following new Clause –

“Public procurement: employment of members of the reserve forces

- (1) Section 13 of the Procurement Act 2023 (the national procurement policy statement) is amended as follows.
- (2) After subsection (2) insert –
 - “(2A) The national procurement policy statement must include provision about how contracting authorities are to take into account, in the exercise of their procurement functions, a supplier’s arrangements for the employment and support of members of the reserve forces.
 - (2B) Provision made by virtue of subsection (2A) must in particular address –
 - (a) whether the supplier maintains a policy under section (*Employer policies on the employment of members of the reserve forces*) of the Armed Forces Act 2026;
 - (b) whether the supplier permits time off for reserve forces training in excess of any entitlement under section 50A of the Employment Rights Act 1996;
 - (c) the supplier’s recognition, if any, under any scheme operated by the Secretary of State for Defence for the recognition of employers who support the armed forces.”
- (3) In subsection (3)(a), after “appropriate” insert “, which must include consultation with the Secretary of State for Defence”.

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the national procurement policy statement, to which contracting authorities must have regard under section 13(9) of the Procurement Act 2023, to address how a supplier’s arrangements for employing reservists are taken into account.

Schedule 6

LORD DE MAULEY
LORD STIRRUP
BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
BARONESS GOLDIE

46 Schedule 6, page 133, line 17, at end insert –

“(aa) the chairs of the regional councils;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would allow for regional chairs to sit on the RFCA board.

LORD DE MAULEY
LORD STIRRUP
BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
BARONESS GOLDIE

- 47 Schedule 6, page 133, line 27, after “(1)(a)” insert “, (aa)”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would allow for regional chairs to sit on the RFCA board.

LORD DE MAULEY
LORD STIRRUP
BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
LORD EMPEY

- 48 Schedule 6, page 134, line 22, leave out paragraph 4

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure non executive board members remain unpaid and therefore genuinely committed to the reserves and cadets.

LORD DE MAULEY
LORD STIRRUP
BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
BARONESS GOLDIE

- 49 Schedule 6, page 137, line 10, at end insert—

“(4A) Each regional council must arrange, from each county in its area—

- (a) for the appointment as members of the RFCA naval members, marine members, military members and air force members;
- (b) for the appointment as members of the RFCA by the Defence Council, after consultation with, and on the recommendation of, the bodies to be represented, representatives of such of the local authorities wholly or partly within the area for which the RFCA is established as the Defence Council may from time to time determine;
- (c) for the appointment as members of the RFCA by the Defence Council, representatives of universities whose activities are carried on wholly or partly within the area for which the RFCA is established;
- (d) for the appointment as members of the RFCA by the Defence Council, persons representing the Army Cadet Force, the Air Training Corps, the Combined Cadet Force and the Sea Cadet Corps;
- (e) for the appointment as members of the RFCA by the Defence Council, persons representing employers, and persons employed, in the area for which the RFCA is established;
- (f) for the appointment of co-opted members;
- (g) for the mode of appointment, dismissal, term of office and rotation of members of the RFCA and the filling of casual vacancies;

- (h) for the election of a chairman and a vice-chairman or vice-chairmen by the RFCA and for defining their powers and duties;
- (i) for the appointment by the RFCA, subject to the approval of the Defence Council, of a secretary and other officers of the RFCA;
- (j) for dividing the area for which the RFCA is established into two or more parts and for establishing sub-associations for any of the parts.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the wider membership, as referenced in the 2019 Sullivan review, is retained in primary legislation.

LORD DE MAULEY
LORD STIRRUP
BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
LORD EMPEY

50

Schedule 6, page 137, line 17, at end insert—

- “(7) Each regional council in England and Wales (except Greater London) and Northern Ireland must make arrangements—
 - (a) for constituting as president of the regional council the lord-lieutenant of one of the counties or parts of counties for which the regional council is established, and
 - (b) for constituting as vice-presidents of the regional council the lord-lieutenants of those counties or parts of counties for which the regional council is established (if they are willing to act).
- (8) Each regional council in Scotland will make arrangements—
 - (a) in the case where a regional council area coincides with a local government area or where a local government area contains two or more regional council areas, for the selection of the president and vice-presidents of the regional council from the lord-lieutenants residing in the local government area, or
 - (b) in the case where a regional council area falls within two or more local government areas, for the selection of the president and vice-presidents of the regional council from the lord-lieutenants residing in those local government areas.
- (9) A regional council established for an area including Greater London shall provide for constituting the lord-lieutenant of Greater London as president of the regional council.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure Lord-Lieutenants' involvement as presidents of regional councils remains enshrined in primary legislation.

LORD DE MAULEY
LORD STIRRUP
BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
LORD EMPEY

51 Schedule 6, page 137, line 17, at end insert—

“(7) A national council must be established whose members will be the chairs of the regional councils and such other members as the Defence Council shall appoint.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that there is a national voluntary body to bring together the views and contributions of the regional councils.

LORD DE MAULEY
LORD STIRRUP
BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
LORD EMPEY

52 Schedule 6, page 141, line 32, leave out paragraph (b)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would prevent responsibility for production of the annual report being transferred to a body which is not independent of the Ministry of Defence.

BARONESS GOLDIE
THE EARL OF MINTO
LORD DE MAULEY

The above-named Lords give notice of their intention to oppose the Question that Schedule 6 be the Sixth Schedule to the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement

This notice to oppose Schedule 6 and the notice to oppose clause 38 in the name of Baroness Goldie would remove the provisions which reorganise the Reserve and Cadet Associations into a new non-departmental public body.

After Clause 42

LORD THOMAS OF GRESFORD
BARONESS BRINTON

53 After Clause 42, insert the following new Clause—

“Visiting forces agreements

(1) The Secretary of State must publish in unredacted form any part of a treaty, memorandum of understanding or agreement between the United Kingdom and

any sending country relating to visiting forces containing a decision about a jurisdictional question, including in relation to the Visiting Forces Act 1952.

- (2) Alongside the material published under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must publish a document setting out the reasons behind any decision about a jurisdictional question contained in the relevant treaty, memorandum of understanding or agreement.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment probes the nature of any agreements reached between the UK and a sending country in relation to jurisdiction over visiting forces, and requires the Secretary of State to set out the reasons behind such a decision.

BARONESS BRINTON

54 After Clause 42, insert the following new Clause —

“Amendment to the Visiting Forces Act 1952

In section 1(1)(a) (countries to which Act applies) of the Visiting Forces Act 1952, at end insert “, or the United States”.”

Member's explanatory statement

This is a probing amendment to ascertain why the United States is not included among the countries specified in section 1(1)(a) of the Visiting Forces Act 1952.

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE
BARONESS BRINTON

55 After Clause 42, insert the following new Clause —

“Visiting forces: qualifying sexual offences

- (1) After section 3 of VFA 1952 insert —

“3A Qualifying sexual offences: restriction on relinquishment of jurisdiction

- (1) This section applies where —
 - (a) a person is alleged to have committed a qualifying sexual offence in the United Kingdom at a time when the person was a member of a visiting force or of its civilian component, and
 - (b) the alleged victim was not at that time a member of that force or component, or a dependant of such a member.
- (2) It is to be presumed that any investigation of the alleged offence will be conducted by a United Kingdom police force and that any proceedings in respect of it will be conducted before a United Kingdom court.
- (3) A relevant authority may not transfer the investigation of the alleged offence to the authorities of the sending country, or consent to the exercise of jurisdiction over it by those authorities, or otherwise waive the United

Kingdom's primary right to exercise jurisdiction in respect of it, except pursuant to a decision under subsection (4).

- (4) The relevant prosecutor may decide that the alleged offence is to be dealt with under the law of the sending country only if—
 - (a) the decision is made by the relevant prosecutor personally,
 - (b) the relevant prosecutor has had regard to—
 - (i) the gravity of the alleged offence,
 - (ii) the connection of the alleged victim and of the offence with the United Kingdom,
 - (iii) the capacity of the sending country's arrangements, including its treatment of victims, to secure justice in the case,
 - (iv) any matters relied on in support of a request for a waiver, and
 - (v) any representations regarding the decision made within a reasonable period by the alleged victim, and
 - (c) the relevant prosecutor is satisfied that, by reason of exceptional circumstances, it is in the interests of justice for the alleged offence to be so dealt with.
- (5) On making a decision under subsection (4) the relevant prosecutor must record the decision and the reasons for it in writing and, so far as reasonably practicable, notify them to the alleged victim.
- (6) Nothing in this section prevents sympathetic consideration being given to a request by the sending country for a waiver of the United Kingdom's primary right; but effect may be given to such a request only in accordance with this section.
- (7) For the purposes of this Act, an act constituting a qualifying sexual offence is not capable of arising out of and in the course of a person's duty as a member of a visiting force or of its civilian component; and a certificate under section 11(4) is accordingly of no effect in relation to such an offence.
- (8) In this section—
 - “alleged victim” means the person against whom the offence is alleged to have been committed and, where that person has died or lacks capacity to act, includes a member of that person's family;
 - “qualifying sexual offence” means an offence under Part 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, an offence under Part 1 of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 or rape at common law in Scotland, an offence under the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008, or an offence of attempting, conspiring in, encouraging or assisting, or aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of, such an offence;
 - “relevant authority” means a relevant prosecutor, the chief officer of any United Kingdom police force (including the Ministry of Defence Police), the Provost Marshal of any service police force, the Director

of Service Prosecutions, or a person acting under the direction and control of any of them;

“relevant prosecutor” means the Director of Public Prosecutions in relation to England and Wales, the Lord Advocate in relation to Scotland, and the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland in relation to Northern Ireland.”

- (2) In section 11 of VFA 1952 (evidence), after subsection (8) (inserted by section 42) insert –

“(9) This section is subject to section 3A(7).”

Clause 48

LORD PARKINSON OF WHITLEY BAY

55A★ Clause 48, page 68, line 15, at end insert –

“(8) After section 230(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (salvage claims against the Crown and Crown rights of salvage and regulation thereof) insert –

“(1A) Subsection (1) does not apply to any vessel, including Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels, cargo or equipment which has sunk or been stranded while in military service.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment amends section 230 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, so that subsection (1) does not apply to military or Royal Auxiliary Fleet vessels.

LORD DANNATT

Lord Dannatt gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 48 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement

This opposition to Clause 48 seeks to make the case that there should be wider consultation with the diving community before legislation is introduced.

After Clause 50

LORD CRAIG OF RADLEY
LORD HARLECH

56 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause –

“Waived fees for indefinite leave to remain for spouses or children of serving or discharged members of the armed forces

- (1) The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/330) are amended as follows.

- (2) In paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 (applications for leave to remain in the United Kingdom), in 9.18 of table 9 (fees for applications for limited leave to remain in the United Kingdom and connected applications) –
- (a) after (b), insert –
 - “(c) in a case where the application is made by a person who is a spouse or child of a member or previously serving member of the armed forces who has served for four or more years”
 - (b) in the closing words, leave out “and (b)” and insert “, (b), and (c)”.

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would amend the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2018 to waive the fee for indefinite leave to remain applications for the spouses or children of any current or previously serving members of the armed forces who have served for four or more years.

BARONESS PENN
BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
LORD HARLECH
BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

57 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause –

“Occupational paternity leave and pay

Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must amend the Armed Forces Occupational Paternity Leave Scheme to –

- (a) extend the paternity leave entitlement of service personnel to six weeks, and
- (b) specify that the six weeks of paternity leave is fully paid.”

BARONESS GOLDIE
THE EARL OF MINTO

58 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause –

“Overseas operations and the European Convention on Human Rights

- (1) The Human Rights Act 1998 is amended as follows.
- (2) For section 7A (limitation: overseas forces proceedings) substitute –

“7A No proceedings for overseas operations

- (1) No proceedings may be brought under section 7(1)(a) in respect of any overseas operations by His Majesty’s forces.
- (2) “Overseas operations” means any operations outside the British Islands, including peacekeeping operations and operations for dealing with terrorism, civil unrest or serious public disorder, in the course of which

members of His Majesty's forces come under attack or face the threat of attack or violent resistance.

- (3) “His Majesty’s forces” has the same meaning as in the Armed Forces Act 2006 (see section 374 of that Act).
 - (4) A member of the regular or reserve forces who has been deployed on an overseas operation under this Act may not be subject to the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights for the duration of that deployment.”
- (3) After section 14 (derogations), insert –

“14A Overseas operations and the European Convention on Human Rights

- (1) Where the Secretary of State considers that any overseas operation is, or is likely to be, significant, the Secretary of State must authorise for the United Kingdom to make a derogation under Article 15(1) of the Convention.
- (2) In this section “overseas operations” has the same meaning as in section 7A.””

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause seeks to make provision for the members of the regular or reserve forces who have been deployed under this Act to be exempt from the European Convention on Human Rights for that period of deployment.

THE LORD BISHOP OF NORWICH
THE EARL OF MINTO
BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM

59 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause –

“Impersonation of service police

- (1) Section 90 of the Police Act 1996 (impersonation, etc.) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1), after “force” insert “including service police”.
- (3) In subsection (2), after “force” insert “including service police”.
- (4) In subsection (3), after “force” insert “including service police”.
- (5) In subsection (4), at end insert –

“(c) “service police” has the same meaning as in section 375 of the Armed Forces Act 2006 (definitions relating to the service police and other police forces).””

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment seeks to amend section 90 of the Police Act 1996 to make impersonating a service police officer a specific offence and afford service police the same protections against impersonation given to their civilian counterparts.

THE LORD BISHOP OF NORWICH
THE EARL OF MINTO
BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM

60 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause –

“Protection of service police from assaults

- (1) Section 3 of the Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018 (meaning of “emergency worker”) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1), after paragraph (b) insert –
“(ba) a service police officer;”.
- (3) In subsection (3), at end insert –
““service police” has the same meaning as in section 375 of the Armed Forces Act 2006 (definitions relating to the service police and other police forces).””

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment seeks to amend section 3 of the Assaults On Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018 to specifically include service police within the meaning of an emergency worker.

BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
LORD DE MAULEY

61 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause –

“Independent review of Armed Forces recruitment and retention

- (1) The Secretary of State must commission an independent review of the processes for recruitment and retention across His Majesty's forces.
- (2) The review under subsection (1) must, in particular, consider –
 - (a) the efficiency and consistency of recruitment processes across the Royal Navy, the regular army, the Royal Air Force and the reserve forces,
 - (b) the effectiveness of steps being taken to improve diversity and inclusion within His Majesty's forces,
 - (c) the impact of the quality of defence housing (including single living accommodation) on the retention of service personnel, and
 - (d) the impact of the medical discharge process on retention and transition to civilian life.
- (3) A report of the review must be laid before each House of Parliament no later than 12 months after the day on which this Act is passed.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause requires the Government to commission an independent review into recruitment and retention in the Armed Forces and lay the report of the review before Parliament.

BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
BARONESS BRINTON

62 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause —

“Duty to provide medical records on discharge

- (1) This section applies where a person ceases to be a member of the regular forces or the reserve forces.
- (2) The Secretary of State must by regulations make provision for a complete copy of the person's service medical records to be provided to the person no later than one month after the day on which the person is discharged or otherwise ceases to be a member of those forces.
- (3) Those regulations may specify the manner and form in which service medical records are to be provided under this section, including provision for records to be transferred directly to a civilian health body with the person's consent.
- (4) In this section —
 - “health body” has the same meaning as in section 343AZB of AFA 2006;
 - “service medical records” means any records relating to the person's physical or mental health care and treatment created or maintained by or on behalf of His Majesty's forces during the person's period of service.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause places a statutory duty on the Secretary of State to ensure that all service personnel leaving the military receive a complete copy of their medical records within one month of their discharge date.

BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
BARONESS BRINTON

63 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause —

“Personal independence payment reassessment exemption for amputees

- (1) Within six months of the passage of this Act, the Secretary of State must make regulations which make provision for persons who have experienced an amputation as a consequence of their membership in the armed forces to be exempt from personal independence payment reassessments except in instances in which such persons have requested a reassessment.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, “personal independence payment” has the meaning given by Part 4 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to make regulations to ensure that persons who have experienced an amputation as a consequence of their membership in the armed forces are exempt from personal independence payment reassessments.

BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM

64 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause —

“Reporting on the Defence Investment Plan

- (1) Every six months after the day on which this Act is passed for the duration of this Parliament, and every year thereafter, the Secretary of State must publish a report on the implementation of the Defence Investment Plan.
- (2) The Secretary of State must lay a copy of each report under subsection (1) before each House of Parliament.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would compel the Government to publish and lay before Parliament a regular report on the implementation of the Defence Investment Plan every six months during this Parliament, and annually thereafter.

BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM

65 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause —

“Report on the impact of Defence Investment Plan delays

- (1) Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must publish an impact assessment of the delays to the implementation of the Defence Investment Plan.
- (2) The report under subsection (1) must include an assessment of the impact of such delays on —
 - (a) small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within the UK defence supply chain,
 - (b) military procurement, equipment capability timelines, and operational readiness, and
 - (c) the financial sustainability of defence sector businesses.
- (3) In preparing the report under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must consult —
 - (a) representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises in the defence sector, and
 - (b) the Defence Suppliers Forum.
- (4) The Secretary of State must lay a copy of the report under subsection (1) before each House of Parliament.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause requires the Secretary of State to publish and lay before Parliament a one-time report within six months of the Act's passage assessing the impact of Defence Investment Plan delays on military procurement and defence businesses, with particular focus on SMEs.

BARONESS PENN

66 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause —

“Waived fees for indefinite leave to remain for spouses or children of serving or discharged members of the armed forces (No. 2)

- (1) Within three months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must by regulations made by statutory instrument make provision for the waiving of fees for indefinite leave to remain for the spouses and children of a member or previously serving member of the armed forces who has served for four or more years.
- (2) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.”

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

67 After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause —

“Veterans: concessionary bus travel

- (1) The Secretary of State must establish a concessionary travel scheme for eligible veterans.
- (2) The scheme must provide eligible veterans with free travel on eligible bus services.
- (3) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument may make provision about eligibility, eligible services, geographical coverage, administration and reimbursement of operators.
- (4) In exercising the duty under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must have regard to existing concessionary travel arrangements in each part of the United Kingdom.
- (5) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to establish a concessionary travel scheme for eligible veterans, providing a concession on eligible bus services.

Clause 55

BARONESS BRINTON

68 Clause 55, page 71, line 5, at end insert —

“(ba) section (*Visiting forces: qualifying sexual offences*);”

LORD HARLECH

69 Clause 55, page 71, line 15, at end insert—

“(2A) Section (*Employer policies on the employment of members of the reserve forces*) comes into force at the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.”

LORD HARLECH

70 Clause 55, page 71, line 15, at end insert—

“(2A) Section (*Right to time off for reserve forces training*) comes into force at the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.”

Armed Forces Bill

SECOND MARSHALLED
LIST OF AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

4 September 2026

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