



Reserve Forces Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 14

PART II

ENLISTMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Discharge

17 Postponement of discharge.

- (1) Where, at the time he would (apart from this section) become entitled to be discharged under section 16, a man is in permanent service or [^{F1}full-time service under a full-time service commitment][^{F1}service under a section 24 commitment], he shall not be entitled to be discharged until he is released from that service.
- (2) Where, at the time when a man not in permanent service or [^{F2}full-time service under a full-time service commitment][^{F2}service under a section 24 commitment] would (apart from this section) become entitled to be discharged under section 16(1), an order under section 52 is in force authorising the call out of members of any reserve force, he may be required to prolong his service for such further term, not exceeding 12 months, as the Defence Council or an authorised officer may order.
- (3) In subsection (2) “authorised officer” means an officer authorised by or in accordance with directions of the Defence Council to exercise the power conferred by that subsection.
- (4) Where, at the time when a man not in permanent service or [^{F3}full-time service under a full-time service commitment][^{F3}service under a section 24 commitment] would (apart from this section) become entitled to be discharged under section 16(2), an order under section 52 or 54 is in force authorising the call out of members of any reserve force, he shall not be entitled to be so discharged while that call-out order is in force.

Changes to legislation: Reserve Forces Act 1996, Section 17 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 April 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](#)

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 17(1) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\)](#), s. 24(1), [Sch. 2 para. 2\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 2 para. 10](#)); [S.I. 2022/471](#), [reg. 2\(c\)](#)
- F2** Words in s. 17(2) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\)](#), s. 24(1), [Sch. 2 para. 2\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 2 para. 10](#)); [S.I. 2022/471](#), [reg. 2\(c\)](#)
- F3** Words in s. 17(4) substituted (1.5.2022 for specified purposes) by [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\)](#), s. 24(1), [Sch. 2 para. 2\(4\)](#) (with [Sch. 2 para. 10](#)); [S.I. 2022/471](#), [reg. 2\(c\)](#)

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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](#)