

Ministry of Defence

Wednesday 02 February 2011



Fabian Hamilton MP (Leeds North East) (Lab)

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WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of armed forces recruits in each age group withdrew from training before the end of phase two in each of the last five years. (37938)

The Rt Hon Andrew Robathan MP

The following table shows the UK Regular Forces, Tri-Service rates of outflow from the untrained strength for the past five financial years (FY):

Age	FY2006-07	FY2007-08	FY2008-09	FY2009-10	FY 2010-11
Total	33.3%	29.0%	21.4%	21.8%	18.2%
Under 18	43.7%	49.5%	43.2%	33.2%	26.9%
18-19	42.1%	37.9%	24.0%	25.9%	23.8%
20-24	26.3%	21.6%	16.0%	18.4%	15.3%
25-29	21.1%	14.8%	10.8%	16.1%	13.2%
30-34	14.3%	13.0%	12.9%	12.5%	13.9%
35+	19.6%	7.4%	7.2%	11.1%	8.1%

Due to ongoing validation of data, statistics from FY2007-08 onwards are provisional and subject to review. Outflow rates for the current financial year are projected figures based on actual outflow for the financial year to date.

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WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what legal advice he has received on the disparity in minimum service periods for a recruit who enlists at the age of 16 compared with a recruit who enlists at age 18 or above. (37946)

The Rt Hon Andrew Robathan MP

Legal advice was provided by Ministry Of Defence lawyers regarding the different arrangements that apply to those who enlist before the age of 18 compared to those aged 18 or above.

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WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what legal advice he has received on the retention of an armed forces recruit who no longer wishes to be bound by the enlistment contract he or she entered into while legally a minor. (37947)

The Rt Hon Andrew Robathan MP

In developing the provisions as to a person's enlistment and terms of service, the policy teams worked closely with the Ministry Of Defence's in-house legal team and received ongoing advice.

A recruit who was under 18 years of age at the time of enlistment and who wishes to end their service may give at least 14 days' notice to their commanding officer. Such notice can take effect when the recruit has completed 28 days' service and is within six months of enlistment.

Additionally, after this time, but before the recruit has attained the age of 18 and three months, a recruit who has made their unhappiness known would not be stopped from leaving the service should they wish to do so. After the age of 18 years and three months, the usual procedures for leaving the relevant service would apply.

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WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what legal advice he has received on retention of an armed forces recruit aged under 18 if his or her parent withdraws consent after attestation. (37948)

The Rt Hon Andrew Robathan MP

In developing the provisions as to a person's enlistment and terms of service, the policy teams worked closely with the Ministry Of Defence's in-house legal team and received ongoing advice.

Provision was made in the Armed Forces (Enlistment) Regulations 2009 for the situation when an appropriate person, such as a parent, did not give or withdrew consent to the enlistment of a person under the age of 18. Such a parent may apply within three months of the enlistment to the Defence Council for a determination that the enlistment is invalid, even if the enlisted person has since attained the age of 18. However, if all necessary consents were obtained prior to the enlistment of a person under the age of 18, and that consent is subsequently withdrawn after the valid enlistment of the person, the enlistment will remain valid.

However, it still remains the case that before any recruit has attained the age of 18 years and three months, they would not be stopped from leaving the Service if they were to make their unhappiness known.