

The Armed Forces Bill proposes to abolish the 13 existing regional Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations (RFCAs) and replace them with a new "streamlined" national structure. Jesse Norman MP has a piece in The Telegraph which concludes:

"Before the Bill completes its passage, Parliament needs clear and comprehensive answers to some basic questions. What will the new organisation cost to set up, and to run over time? How will this affect the recruitment and retention of reserves and cadets? Which decisions will remain local? What consultation has been undertaken with the Lord-Lieutenants, who are all appointed by the Crown? And has anyone asked the voluntary members how they feel and whether they will stay?

The Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations have stood the test of time for more than a century. They are among the "little platoons" on which this country depends, rooted in their communities and sustained by voluntary service. To destroy them now at the stroke of a Whitehall pen for no reason would be a wanton and unnecessary act of vandalism."

Telegraph (paywall): [Labour is vandalising the 'little platoons' of the Armed Forces](#)

*Jesse Norman MP (Conservative) is shadow leader of the Commons and a member of the defence select committee*