

Colonel N D O Williams TD JP OStJ DL  
Chairman



# NW RFCA

RESERVE FORCES' AND CADETS' ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND AND THE ISLE OF MAN

Alt House  
Altcar Training Camp  
Hightown  
LIVERPOOL  
L38 7JD

Telephone: Chief Executive: Skype: 0151 541  
5740 Skype: 03001 683997  
Work Mobile: 07770 92778  
Email: [smpgroup@btconnect.com](mailto:smpgroup@btconnect.com)

NW RFCA/Chairman/01/NDPB

President NW RFCA  
Vice-Presidents NW RFCA  
Vice-Chairs & Board Members NW RFCA  
NW RFCA wider membership

Royal  
Naval  
Reserve

21 February 2021

Royal  
Marines  
Reserve

Dear President, Vice - Presidents, Vice - Chairs and Board members,

Army  
Reserve

## NON-DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC BODY UPDATE – RESERVE FORCES' & CADETS' ASSOCIATIONS'

I write to update you on progress towards implementing the MOD's decision to establish the RFCAs as an executive Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB),<sup>1</sup> set out in the Review of the Reserves Forces' and Cadets' Associations 2019 report published in March last year.

Royal  
Auxiliary  
Air Force

Sea  
Cadets

At the outset, progress has been slower than perhaps first envisaged; in part, this is due to the impact of COVID 19 with Reserve Forces' & Cadets' branch – our sponsor in the MOD, being fully engaged on Reserve matters and supporting the Government's response to the pandemic. However, an implementation team is being established in the MOD and we anticipate that the pace of work will now increase. There will be much to do to establish how the new single Executive Board works, and its relationship with regions. I assure you that the CRFCA Board and executive is working closely with MOD to achieve this.

Army  
Cadet  
Force

Importantly, I wanted to give an indication how these changes may affect you - as a member of our RFCA. In his Ministerial Statement announcing the publication of the Review, Rt Hon James Heapey MP, Minister for the Armed Forces (Min(AF)) said that the:

RAF  
Air  
Cadets

*"...functions ...remain valued and necessary and the RFCAs should continue in their role of key partner to Defence – whilst building and maintaining vital links ...with the general public."*

Combined  
Cadet  
Force

Min(AF) also recognised the 'passion' of the RFCAs to deliver beyond expectations. In this we have always relied on your support and advice to the executive teams of the RFCAs in linking Defence to your local communities, whether in England, the Isle of Man or the devolved

<sup>1</sup> You can find out more about NDPBs and the process that led us here at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-bodies-reform>

administrations. Retaining your involvement, commitment, local contacts and networks remains a top priority, so ensuring that our new organisation continues to support Reserves and Cadets in the exemplary manner that you and your predecessors have done for over 100 years.

To ensure continuity of your regional expertise and involvement, fuelled by the volunteer ethos, we propose establishing 'Advisory Councils' to support the NDPB at both the Regional and National level. The means by which we will achieve this has yet to be fully worked through and agreed with the MOD's implementation team, but the CRFCA Board has a clear vision for its future and a determination to preserve the vital contribution of the volunteers.

Obviously, with so much to do and the need for changes to primary legislation, this programme will take time to complete. It is unlikely that major changes will happen before 2022 but, of course, we will keep you informed as plans develop. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mark Underhill if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours age

(Signed on behalf of the Chairman NW RFCA)

Mark Underhill