

VII. MILITARY RESERVE CHAPLAINS REGULATIONS (REGULATIONS VII 2016) (REPLACING REGULATIONS VI 2000)

Edinburgh, 26 May 2016, Session VI

1. Where a Parish Minister (“the Minister”) is an Army Reserve Chaplain, RAF Reserve Chaplain or a Royal Naval Reserve Chaplain on part time reserve service, any proposed change of such status to military service on voluntary mobilisation under section 24 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 shall not be effective unless and until all of the following have been granted:-
 - (a) firstly, the consent of the Minister’s Kirk Session;
 - (b) secondly, the consent of the Presbytery of the bounds; and
 - (c) thirdly, the consent of the Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces or any General Assembly Committee which may succeed to its duties or functions (“the Committee”).
2. Before deciding whether to give or withhold such consent the Committee shall interview the Minister. The consent of the Committee shall not be granted unless the following apply:-
 - (i) the Minister must complete the Employer Notification and relevant mobilisation paperwork from the Ministry of Defence, naming the Church of Scotland, Ministries Council, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN as his or her employer, in order that the appropriate compensatory arrangements for the period of military service will be made to the Ministries Council (for the avoidance of doubt, all compensatory payments made to the Church during the Minister’s period of military service shall belong to the Ministries Council);
 - (ii) confirmation must be received from the Ministry of Defence that satisfactory arrangements are in place as to insurance against personal injury and death during the period of military service;
 - (iii) the Presbytery of the bounds must be able to give an assurance that a suitably qualified locum (full-time where possible) for the Minister’s charge will be appointed to serve for the period of the Minister’s absence on military service, such appointment to be wholly conditional on the consent of the Committee, in terms of these Regulations, being granted.
3. On all of the consents, as detailed above, having been granted, the Presbytery shall appoint an Interim Moderator and, in consultation with the Kirk Session, a suitably qualified locum (full-time where possible) for the charge who shall serve for the period of the Minister’s absence on military service. With the agreement of all parties the Interim Moderator and the locum may be the same person.
4. The Minister’s period(s) of military service shall not exceed six months in any six year period.
5. During periods of military service the Minister shall retain his or her status as Minister of the charge but shall be seconded by the Church to the Ministry of Defence who shall assume all of the responsibilities of an employer vis-à-vis the Minister. For the avoidance of doubt payment of stipend to the Minister shall cease for the duration of such periods.
6. During periods of military service the Church’s contributions to the Church of Scotland Pension Plan in respect of the Minister will be paid by the Church as though he or she were fulfilling all of the duties of a Parish Minister in the charge, UNLESS the Minister requests that employer contributions are made into the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS), in which case payment into the Church of Scotland scheme will cease until the Minister resumes Parish duties.
7. Regulations VI 2000 shall be repealed.