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**Reference Code:** 2019/101/2291

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11.09.89 17:04



## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)MJN/ADG PQ 6815

September 1989

*Dear Kevin,*

At the end of the last session you asked a parliamentary question concerning the number of persons asked to resign from the Ulster Defence Regiment and its Reserve since 1985 as a result of having been charged with crimes, and in particular those who resigned as a result of being charged with scheduled offences. Michael Neubert undertook to write to you.

The UDR does not have a Reserve as such, although it does of course have a part time element as well as a permanent cadre. The information given below covers both part time and permanent cadre members of the UDR.

No officer at Regimental level has the authority to ask for the resignation of an officer or soldier of the UDR; this would be a matter for the Ministry of Defence. No member of the UDR has been asked to resign. However, some UDR soldiers have chosen to resign after being charged or when charges appeared imminent. Some have been discharged as a result of having been convicted of serious offences, and others did not apply to re-engage when their current engagement terminated while they were under investigation or on remand. Details for the period from 1 January 1985 to the present are as follows:

Resignation. Voluntary resignation having been involved in an offence

16

Discharge. Discharged having been convicted and awarded custodial sentences including suspended sentence

54

Termination of Engagement. Engagement terminated following commission of offence but before trial.

3

Total 73

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Nine soldiers were discharged as a result of being convicted of involvement in scheduled offences. Details are as follows:

<u>Offence</u>	<u>No</u>
Murder and possession of firearms	3
Murder	1
Murder, armed robbery, collecting information which might be of use to terrorists	1
Armed Robbery	1
Placing an article to induce belief that it was likely to explode and Discharging a firearm in a public place	1
Supplying information which might be of use to terrorists.	1
Theft (of weapons)	1

I hope this is helpful. I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Yours sincerely  
Tony Arran

The Earl of Arran

8 JUNE 1988

Number of convictions<sup>1</sup> of members of the security forces where firearms were used<sup>2</sup>

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	<sup>2</sup> 1988
Regular Army	7	6	3	3	2	1	3	0	0
Ulster Defence Regiment	4	1	1	3	2	3	17	11	6
Royal Ulster Constabulary and Royal Ulster Constabulary (Reserve)	3	0	2	0	0	3	3	1	2
TOTALS	14	7	6	6	4	7	17	12	8

<sup>1</sup> (i) Convictions cover offences committed both on and off duty.  
(ii) Information is not available where a person is discharged or his engagement is terminated before conviction or where he has left the service before committing the offence.

<sup>2</sup> Up to 30 April.

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