

Dear Sir or Madam,

One aspect that should be explicitly referenced in your consultation document is the role of the Reserve Defence Forces, one pillar of the Defence Forces more generally.

While your document recognises the role of the Defence Forces generally, skills surveys within the Reserve have shown a considerable number of personnel working in IT and cyber security for the private sector and are active members of the Reserve. This places many personnel at the cutting edge of cyber security for industry and multi national companies.

In contract, the Permanent Defence Forces members do not have the same experience or expertise. There is also a substantial shortfall in DF members who work in the IT field on a dedicated basis with many moved around frequently leading to skills and corporate memory losses.

The consultation document would benefit substantially from clearly stating the potential skills and experience benefit of utilising the cybersecurity skills from personnel within the Reserve Defence Forces, as a distinct point from the defence forces more generally. This proposal would also align with the Dept Defence Commission on the Defence Forces proposals to:

1. Be proactive for staffing with with focus on regeneration.
2. Provide a modern Reserve with valuable specialist skillsets and expertise
3. Create specialist Reserve posts in high skilled units such as for cyber security

Kindest regards,