

## **NAVAL FAMILIES FEDERATION COMMENT ON SERVICE PERSONNEL COMMAND PAPER**

In response to today's announcement of the Service Command Paper, Kim Richardson, Chairperson of the Naval Families Federation said,

“Royal Naval and Royal Marines families had a key part to play in contributing to the Service Personnel Command Paper. On their behalf I had a place on the External Reference Group, chaired by the Minister for the Armed Forces, Bob Ainsworth. The remit of the Group was to offer an independent view of the Command Paper's emerging themes.

A lot of time and effort has gone into producing this Paper and I warmly welcome its publication. Many issues that emerge may well be seen by the public as national problems, but these issues become compounded for our families not only because of the nature of the work our Service men and women do, but because of the effect of mobility and separation on their families.

The Prime Minister says that ‘On behalf of the nation, this Government will deliver the pledges it has made in this paper’. My response to our families, whether they be spouses, partners, mums or dads, is ‘Read it, absorb it, allow it to take a little time to bed in, but if it isn't doing what it says on the tin, tell me’! I see the Naval Families Federation role now to be very much ensuring that promises made will be promises kept.”

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