



## **NI VETERANS COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE - KEY FACTS (Jan 2021)**

- Danny Kinahan was appointed to the role of NI Veterans Commissioner by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland as one of the commitments made in the New Decade New Approach political agreement.
- It is estimated there are around 150,000 Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force veterans in Northern Ireland - including approximately 60,000 from the UDR and Royal Irish.
- The Commissioner's aim is to be a 'strong voice for veterans' in Northern Ireland.
- A veteran is defined as anyone who has served for at least one day in Her Majesty's Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve).
- The Commissioner's role will also indirectly involve helping veterans living in Ireland (as well as Northern Ireland) who have served in the British Armed Forces.
- Since taking up the role in September 2020, the Commissioner has held more than 120 face to face and virtual meetings with political representatives at national and local government level - and also with veterans' groups, community organisations and the voluntary sector in NI and Ireland.
- NIVCO works closely with Northern Ireland's Veterans' Support Office (VSO), the statutory body that provides oversight of the delivery of veterans' services across NI.
- There is a Veterans Champion in each of the 11 local councils in Northern Ireland.
- Danny Kinahan is a veteran himself. He was a Captain in the Blues and Royals, completed a tour of duty in Belfast with the Black Watch in the 1980s and also served in the Falklands. After military service, he worked for Shorts in Belfast and then Christie's auction house before entering politics with the Ulster Unionist Party. He has worked at council level and has been an MLA and MP for South Antrim.