



This statistical release provides Tri-Service results from the Families Continuous Attitude Survey (FAMCAS) 2015, along with results from previous years.

Statistics from FAMCAS are used by both internal MOD teams and external bodies to inform the development of policy and measure the impact of decisions affecting Service families, including major programmes such as the Armed Forces Covenant and New Employment Model.

Key Points and Trends

Mobility

- Overall 27% of Service families moved for Service reasons in the past 12 months. These families feel more disadvantaged about education (32%) than those who did not move (20%). They feel more negative about the prospect of buying their own home (37%), and the effect on their career (63%), than those who did not move (27% and 51% respectively).
- These differences in perceptions may be due in part to the disruption experienced by families who move for Service reasons. These families are much more likely to have a child who changes school for Service reasons and hence may experience difficulties with their child's education. They are also less likely to own their own home, less likely to be in full or part time employment, and more likely to have been looking for a job over the past year.

Service comparisons

- Naval Service families differ to other Service families. They are more stable, with only 16% moving for Service reasons over the past year (Army 31%; RAF 27%), but are more likely to experience longer periods of separation. They are also less likely to live with their spouse during the working week (65%) compared to Army (79%) or RAF (81%) families.
- This appears to have a mixed impact on the perceptions of Naval Service families. They feel less disadvantaged about education (15%) than Army (26%) or RAF (25%) families, and less negative about the prospect of owning their own home, frequency of house moves, effect on their career, job security and family income/allowances. Army families feel more advantaged about education and more positive about the effect on their career than other Service families. Naval Service families feel more negative about separation, the effect of Service life on their children, and the effect on their relationship with their spouse.

Armed Forces Covenant

- Just over two fifths (41%) of Service families have never heard of the [Armed Forces Covenant](#). This compares to 29% for Service personnel as reported in the Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey ([AFCAS](#)). A further 19% of Service families have heard of the Covenant but know nothing about it.

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Background quality report: www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index

Would you like to be added to our **contact list**, so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk

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Further Information

Reference tables for FAMCAS 2015 are published as separate documents and can be found on the FAMCAS webpage here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>

The reference tables contain the following information:

Annex A: A PDF copy of a single Service questionnaire

Annex B: A PDF copy of all FAMCAS items in table form by Service and Officer/Other Ranks. Section 8 contains a selection of FAMCAS items by Service and ‘Moved’ (for Service reasons) against ‘Not moved’. There is also an Excel version of Annex B which includes tables of additional breakdowns used to inform the commentary.

Annex C: Excel tables of all FAMCAS items by Location (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Non UK) and Officer/Other Ranks.

Introduction

Please note that throughout this report the term 'married' is used to refer to those who are married or in a civil partnership and the term 'spouse' refers to spouse /civil partner.

The FAMCAS aims to represent the views of the spouses of all Regular trained Service personnel. As at 1 April 2015 there were 141,160 trained UK Regular Armed Forces Personnel, approximately 66,000 (47%) of these are married according to data from the Joint Personnel Administrative system (JPA). This differs slightly by Service; 54% of the RAF are married compared to 44% for the Naval Service and 45% for Army. The majority of spouses (79%) live in England, whilst 12% live outside the UK. Most of those living outside the UK are accompanying their serving spouse on an overseas assignment.

Marital status is not captured on JPA so a Personal Status field is used as a proxy. This field is populated by the individual Service person. The Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey (AFCAS) reports that 51% of Service personnel are married/in a civil partnership. This is higher than the proportion obtained from JPA which could imply underreporting on JPA or over reporting in AFCAS.

The 2015 FAMCAS was distributed to a sample of 30,838 married trained Regular Service personnel between February and May 2015, using mainly paper questionnaires. The Naval Service also hosted an online survey. Participants were chosen using stratified simple random sampling, designed to ensure sufficient responses from each Service and from each rank group within each Service, whilst minimising respondent burden. Overall, 7,591 responses were received, representing a response rate of 25%. This is the same as the response rate for the 2014 survey but 8 percentage points higher than 2013.

FAMCAS 2015 was distributed at a time of significant change for the MOD, including the end of operations in Afghanistan, the reduction of Army personnel in Germany and the continuation of high-level change programmes such as Future Force 2020 and the New Employment Model.

The FAMCAS Working Group (WG) conducted a full review of the Tri-Service questions in the autumn of 2014. The aim of the review was to make the questionnaire easier to complete and to provide a more relevant survey to reflect the current requirements of users. The final 2015 questionnaire had just over 150 items aiming to gather information on a number of areas including accommodation, healthcare, education and childcare, and deployment. Due to the considerable changes, time series are only available for about one quarter of these items; mainly in the Housing, and Employment sections.

Results from FAMCAS, along with those from companion surveys of Armed Forces ([AFCAS](#)) and Reservist Personnel ([RESCAS](#)), are used by the single Services, central MOD teams and certain external organisations to inform the development of policy and measure the impact of decisions affecting personnel and their families. For example, previous FAMCAS results have helped place a focus on spousal under-employment and the results were used as evidence for the creation of policies in this area including the Partner Employment Project. It was noted in AFCAS this year that the impact of Service life on family and personal life remains the top reason for leaving the Armed Forces, as such the view of Service families are a useful aid to retention.

Please see the [Background Quality Report](#) which accompanies the 2015 report for full details of survey methodology, analysis, and data quality considerations.

Only differences that are statistically significant are commented on within this report; statistical tests were carried out at the 99% confidence level. This is at a fairly stringent level and means that there should be a less than 1% chance that differences observed in FAMCAS results aren't representative of Service families as a whole. This reduces the likelihood of wrongly concluding that there has been an actual change based on survey results, which only cover a sample of Service families.

Section 1 - About You

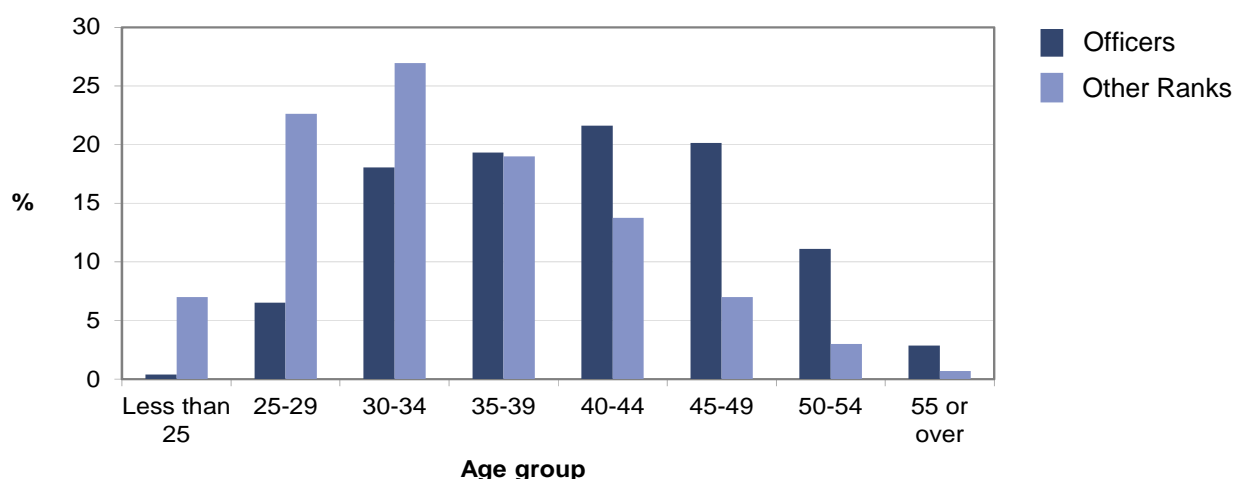
Section 1 provides some insight into the demographics of Service spouses, including age and gender, but also whether they are employed, own their own home or have moved in the past year. This section also includes information on the family; the number of children and their ages. The final part of this section looks at separation.

About you

The majority (92%) of Service spouses are female, although proportionally more RAF spouses are male (12%) than Naval Service or Army spouses (both 7%). These figures are not surprising, they reflect the proportion of females within the Services.

Spouses of Other Ranks tend to be younger than those of Officers, which is to be expected as on average Officers are older than Other Ranks.

Chart 1.1 - Age profile of Service spouses



Employment, mobility and home ownership

Overall, 72% of Service spouses are employed¹, an increase of 4 percentage points on last year. 11% are members of the Armed Forces themselves, a cohort often referred to as 'dual serving'.

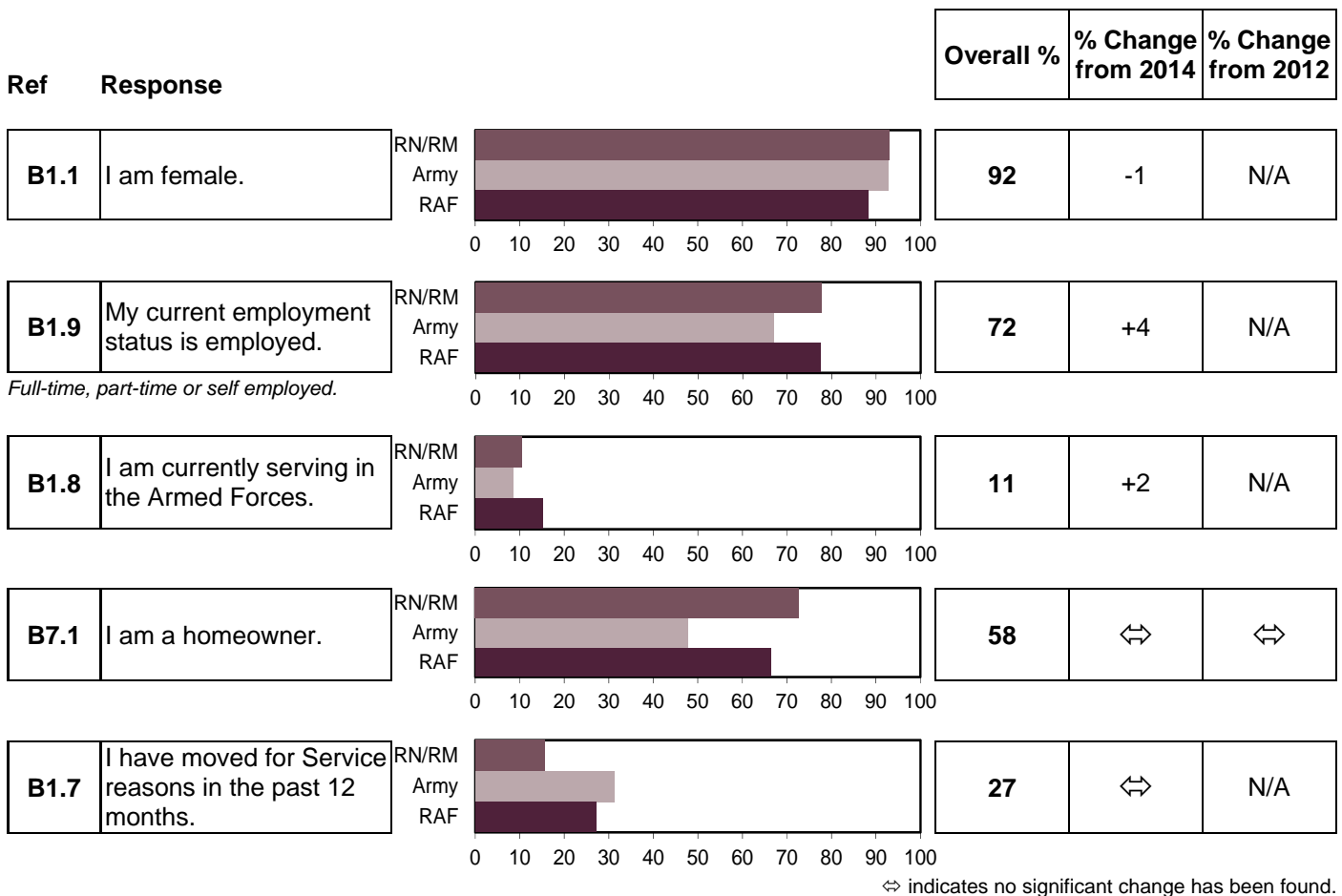
Army spouses are less likely to be employed (67%) than Naval Service (78%) or RAF (77%) spouses. Army Other Rank spouses are the least likely to be employed (66%). Please refer to Section 5 for more detail on employment.

Over the past year 27% of Service families have moved for Service reasons. There has been little change in this figure over the past three years. Mobility can be a cause of disruption for many aspects of family life. These issues are discussed in more detail in Section 8 of this report. Naval Service families are the least likely to have moved for Service reasons in the last 12 months (16%) followed by RAF families (27%). Army families are the most likely to move for Service reasons (31%).

Naval Service families are the most likely to own their own home (73%), followed by RAF families (66%). Army families are the least likely to own their own home (48%). See Section 7 for more detail on housing.

¹[Employed refers to those in full-time employment, part-time employment or self employed.](#)

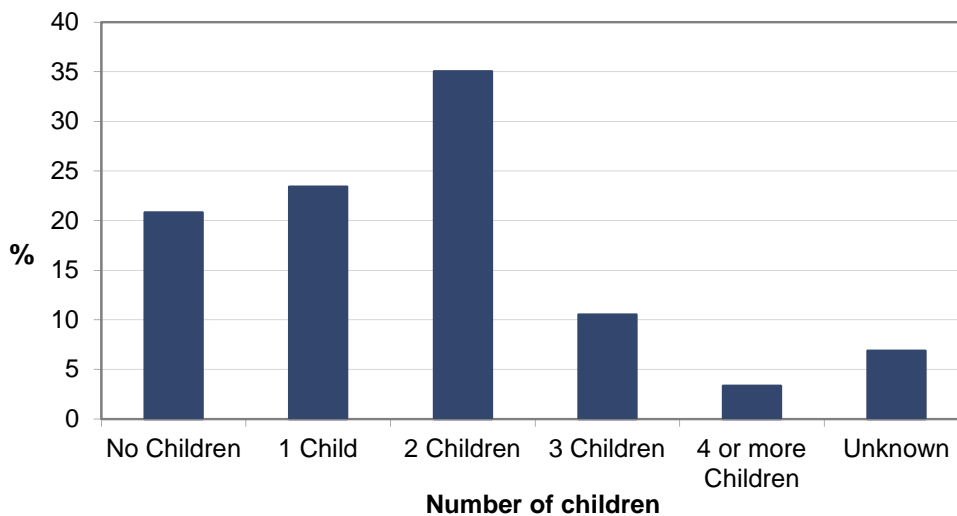
Key Questions - About you



About your family

Most Service families (77%) have children, a figure that remains largely unchanged since 2012. Just over one fifth (21%) do not have any children. A similar proportion (23%) have one child whilst 35% have two children and 14% have three or more. Of those families with children the average number of children is 1.8, which is in line with the national average¹.

Chart 1.2 – Family size



Data Quality Note

These results on family size differ to those obtained from the Joint Personnel Admin System (JPA) which reports more families with no children and fewer with two children.

Just over a quarter (26%) of Service families only have children aged under 5 and a similar proportion (27%) only have children aged over 5. A further 15% have a mixture of children aged under and over 5, whilst just 5% only have children aged over 18.

¹ [Office for National Statistics publication - Family size in 2012.](#)

Key Questions - Your family

Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2014	% Change from 2012
B3.1	Yes, I have children.		77	↔	↔
B3.2 ¹	I have at least one child under the age of 5.		40	↔	N/A
B3.3 ¹	I have at least one child aged 5 to 17 years.		41	↔	N/A
B3.6 ¹	I have at least one child aged 18 or over.		11	↔	N/A

↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

¹Army has a high proportion of missing data on number of children by age (11%) compared to the other Services.

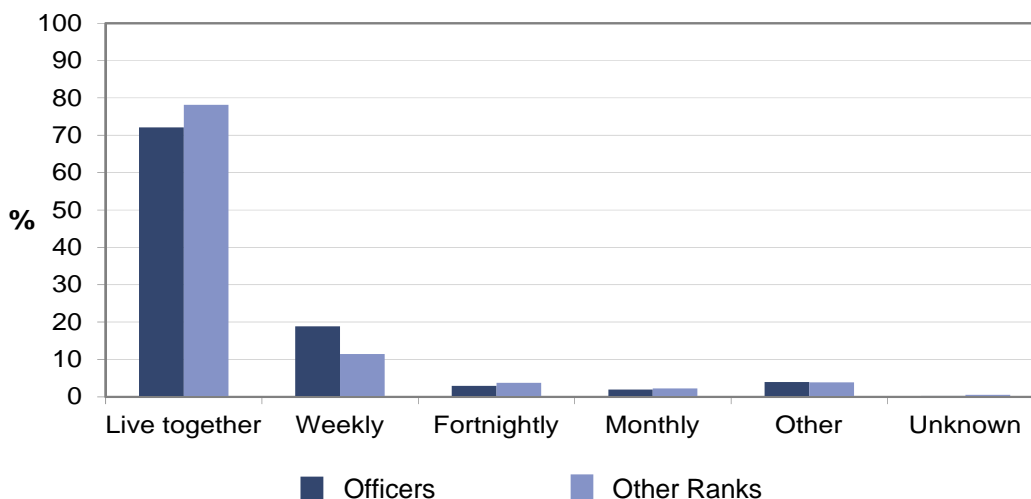
Separation

Overall, 23% of Service families live separately during the working week, although this figure differs by Service and location. Families living outside the UK are less likely to live separately (4%) than those living in the UK. This is because many families living abroad will be accompanying their spouse on an overseas assignment. Naval Service families (35%) are much more likely to live separately during the working week than both Army (21%) and RAF families (19%).

Furthermore, within the Army and RAF, Officer families are more likely to live separately during the working week than Other Rank families. As a result, Officer families are more likely to see each other weekly than families of Other Ranks, as shown in Chart 1.3.

Looking at the overall proportions of families who see each other at least weekly (i.e. either live together or see each other weekly) within Army and RAF, there is no difference between Officers and Other Ranks. However, there is a difference within the Naval Service where Officer families are more likely to see each other at least weekly (91%) than Other Rank families (84%).

Chart 1.3 - How often do you see your spouse/civil partner?



Data Quality Note

Those who live separately from their spouse may be less likely to receive and hence respond to the Families Survey.

However, the percentages of those living together are broadly in line with data from administrative systems.

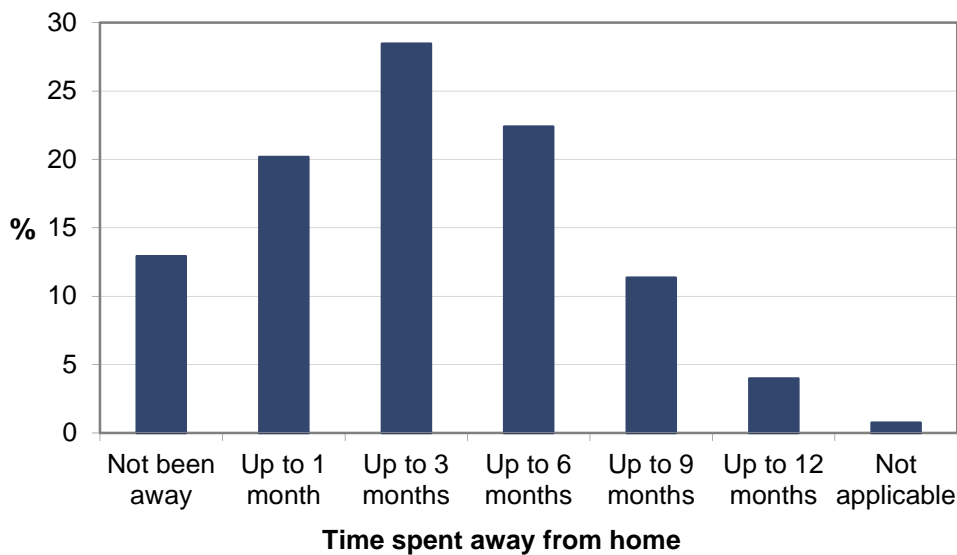
Time spent away from home for Service reasons

Chart 1.4 shows that, despite a large majority of families seeing each other at least weekly, there are still many families dealing with high amounts of separation over the year.

Overall 38% of Serving spouses were away from home for more than three months of the year, and 15% were away for more than six months. These figures are similar to those found in the Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey ([AFCAS](#)). AFCAS also shows that time spent away from home is higher for single Service personnel with 54% being away for more than three months and 28% away for more than six months.

Time away from home differs by Service, almost half (49%) of Naval families experienced separation of more than three months over the last year. This compares to 35% of Army and RAF families. Similarly, over a quarter (27%) of Naval Service families experience separation of more than six months compared to 14% of Army and 9% of RAF families.

Chart 1.4 - Amount of time the serving spouse/civil partner has spent away from home for Service reasons over the past year



Key Questions - Separation

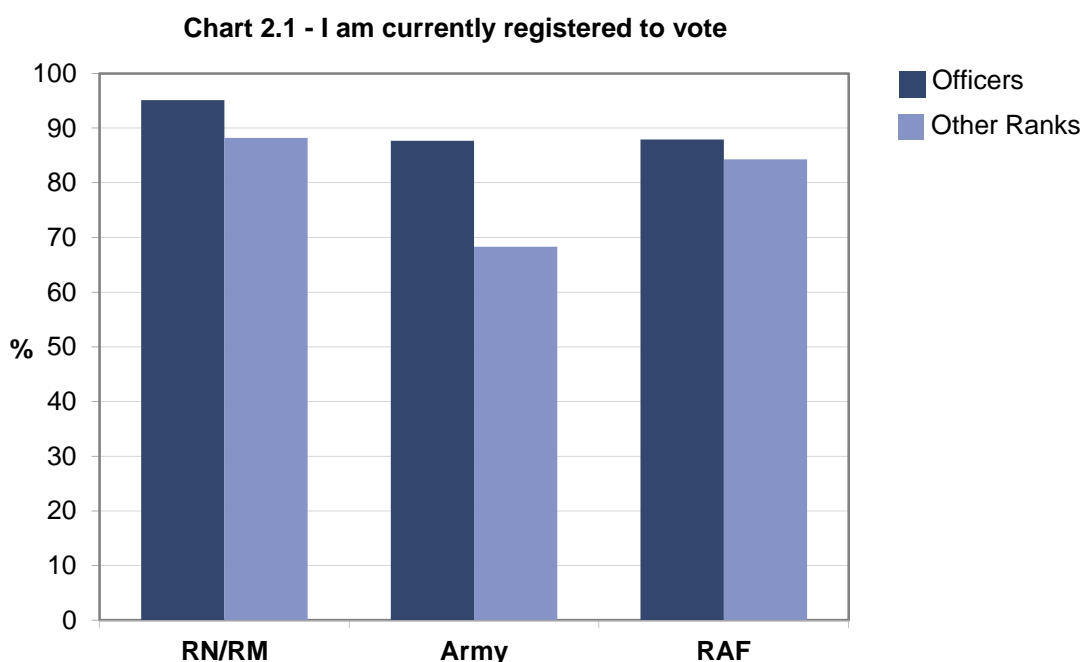
Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2014	% Change from 2012
B1.3	I live separately from my spouse during the working week.		23	N/A	N/A
B1.5	I see my spouse at least weekly.		90	N/A	N/A
<i>Includes those who live together and see each other weekly.</i>					
B1.6	My spouse has been away from home for more than 3 months		38	N/A	N/A
<i>In the past 12 months</i>					

Section 2 - Armed Forces Covenant

Section 2 covers voting registration, as well as a number of questions in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant. These questions measure whether families feel advantaged or disadvantaged compared to the general public, and how positive or negative they feel about particular aspects of Service life.

Voting

79% of spouses are registered to vote. A higher proportion of Naval Service spouses are registered voters (90%) compared to RAF (85%) and Army spouses (72%). These differences are largely driven by the lower proportion of Army Other Rank spouses who are registered to vote (68%). Spouses living in Northern Ireland (55%) and non-UK locations (33%) are less likely to be able to register to vote without difficulty compared to those based in other locations.



Awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant

The [Armed Forces Covenant](#), announced by the Government in May 2011, sets out how Armed Forces personnel and their families can expect to be treated by the Government and the rest of the country in a number of areas including housing and healthcare.

41% of spouses have 'never heard of' the Armed Forces Covenant. Nearly half (47%) of Officers spouses have 'heard of, and know a little about' the Covenant, compared to 27% of Other Rank spouses.

Awareness of the Covenant is lower amongst Service families in comparison to Service Personnel as shown in the 2015 results of AFCAS. AFCAS reports that 29% of Service Personnel have 'never heard of' the Covenant, with Officers more likely to have 'heard of, and know a little about it' (63%) compared to Other Ranks (36%).

Positive and negative aspects of Service life

More families feel positive about 'Pride in spouse/civil partner' than any other aspect of Service life (82%). A higher proportion of Army spouses (85%) feel positive about this in comparison to Naval Service (80%) and RAF spouses (77%).

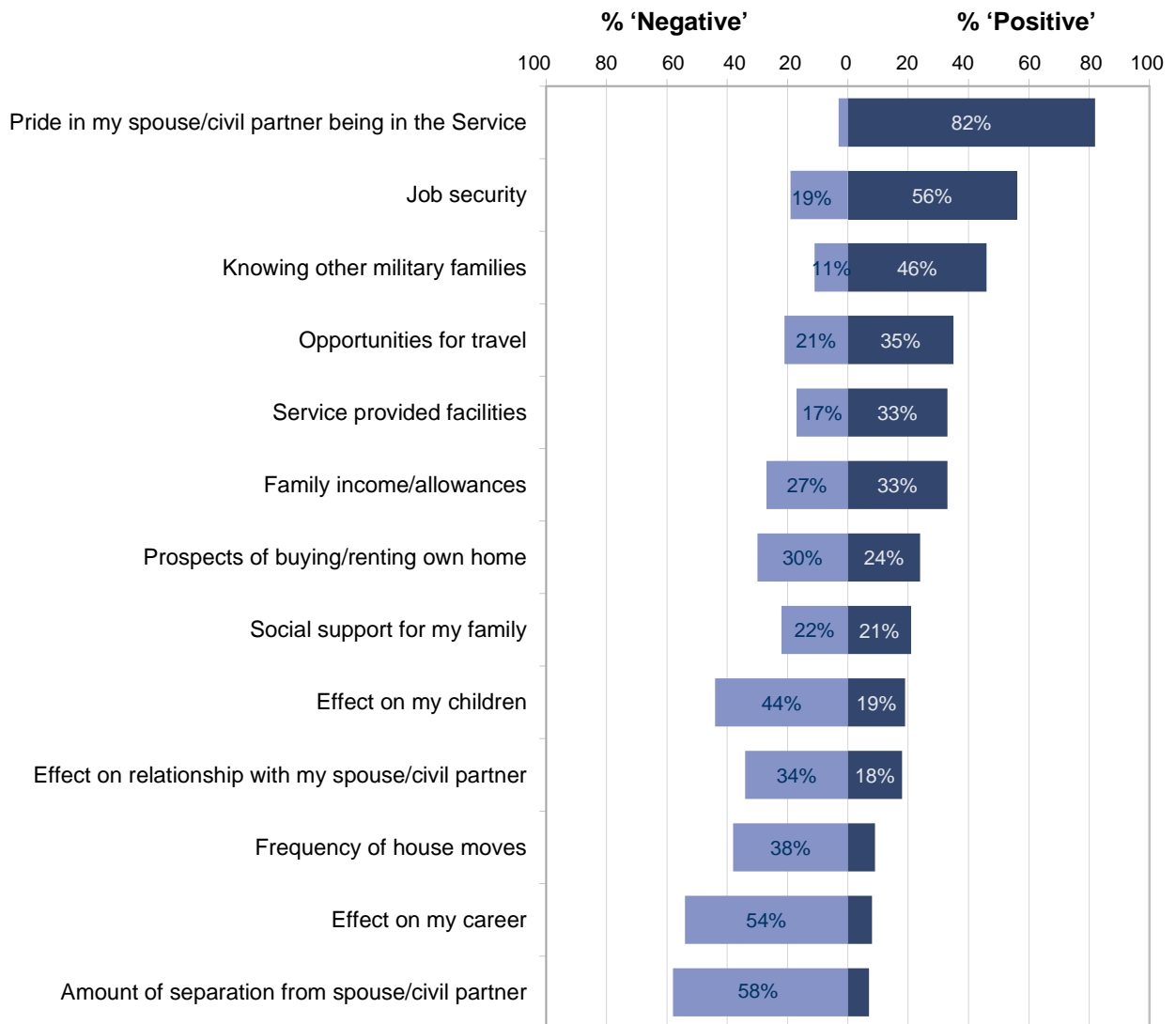
More families feel negative about the 'Amount of separation from spouse/civil partner' than any other aspect of Service life (58%). This is consistent with the 2014 FAMCAS in which 58% of families reported that the amount of separation made them feel 'negative about being a Service spouse/civil partner'. In comparison to Army (55%) and RAF families (57%), considerably more Naval Service families feel that the amount of separation was a negative aspect of Service life (66%).

The effect of Service life on spouses' careers is more likely to be considered as negative for those who indicated that they are unemployed i.e. are not working full/part-time or self employed (63%), compared to those who are employed (50%).

Data Quality Note

'Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied' and 'Not applicable' responses have been excluded from comparison in Chart 2.2.

Chart 2.2 Positive or negative aspects of Service life (Ordered by positive %)



SUBSET: 'Effect on my children' responses based on those with children (77%).

Service comparisons

The three Services operate differently, with quite different approaches to family life. Naval Service families are less likely to move for Service reasons and less likely to live with their spouse. They are more likely to experience longer periods of separation and more likely to own and live in their own home. Army personnel typically move and deploy as units, and so their families are more likely to move for Service reasons and more likely to accompany their spouse on an overseas assignment.

These different approaches can have an impact on families' attitudes about Service life. Naval Service spouses feel more negative about the effect on their children (53%) than Army and RAF families (both 42%), as well as the effect on their relationship with their spouse (Naval Service: 41%, Army: 32%, RAF 34%). They also feel more negative about the amount of separation from their spouse. However, Naval Service spouses feel much more positive about family income/allowances (40%) than Army (30%) and RAF spouses (32%), as well as job security (Naval Service: 70%; RAF: 59%; Army: 50%). They also feel less negative about frequency of house moves and the prospects of buying/renting their own home.

Army spouses are more positive about opportunities for travel (41%) than Naval Service (25%) and RAF (29%) spouses and knowing other military families (Army: 51%; RAF: 43%; Naval Service: 35%). They are also more positive about social support for their family and Service provide facilities and are more proud of their spouse being in the Army.

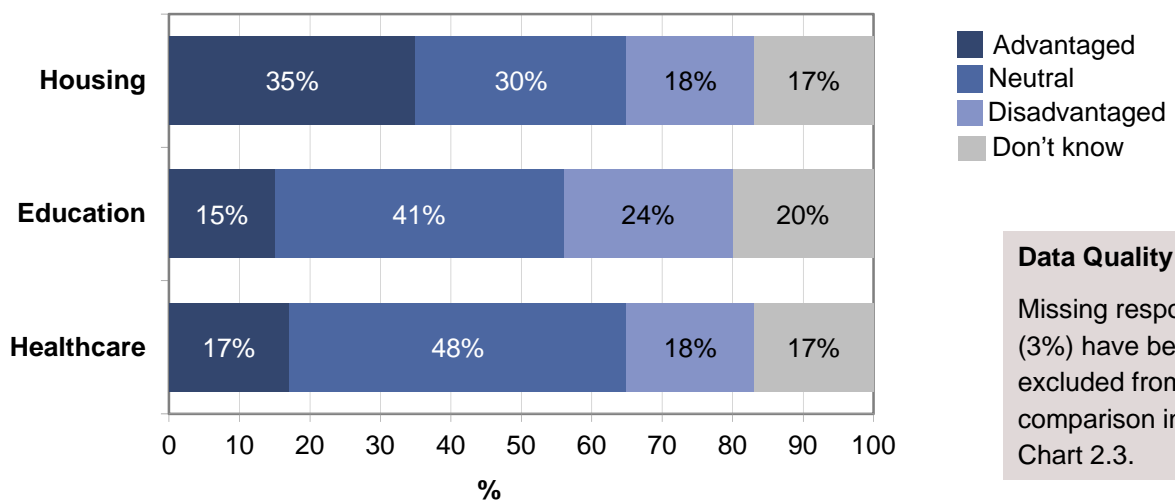
Feelings of being advantaged or disadvantaged compared to the general public

The issue that families feel most advantaged about is housing, with over a third (35%) indicating they feel advantaged. Home ownership may be a contributing factor to this as just 26% of homeowners feel advantaged, compared to 47% of non-homeowners. 39% of homeowners report neutral feelings about their housing situation compared to 18% of non-homeowners. A higher proportion of Army families (41%) feel advantaged about their housing situation compared to the other Services.

Almost a quarter of families (24%) feel disadvantaged in relation to education. As a lower proportion of Naval Service families feel disadvantaged about education (15%), the overall figure is largely driven by Army (26%) and RAF families (25%). Service families with children are also more likely to feel disadvantaged about education (26%), than families without children (15%).

Although nearly half of families feel neutral about healthcare (48%), a higher proportion of Officer families (26%) feel more disadvantaged compared to Other Ranks families (16%). Families living in non-UK locations are more likely to feel advantaged about healthcare (35%) and education (25%) compared to those living in the UK.

Chart 2.3 - How advantaged do families feel about key Covenant issues compared to the general public?



Key Questions - Armed Forces Covenant

Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2014	% Change from 2012
B2.3	I have heard of the Armed Forces Covenant and know a little about it.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	32	N/A	N/A
B2.4	I feel advantaged compared to the general public about housing.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	35	N/A	N/A
B2.5	I feel disadvantaged compared to the general public about education.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	24	N/A	N/A
B2.6	I feel advantaged compared to the general public about healthcare.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	17	N/A	N/A
B2.8 ¹	I feel negative about the effect on my children.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	44	N/A	N/A
B2.15	I feel negative about the effect on the relationship with my spouse.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	34	N/A	N/A
B2.15	I feel negative about the amount of separation from my spouse.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	58	N/A	N/A
B2.17	I feel positive about opportunities for travel.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	35	N/A	N/A
B2.18	I feel positive about pride in my spouse being in the Service.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	82	N/A	N/A
B2.19	I feel positive about job security	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	56	N/A	N/A

¹ SUBSET: Responses filtered on those with children (77%).

Section 3 - Childcare and Children's Education

Section 3 focuses on families with children, particularly their ability to access childcare and satisfaction with local childcare facilities. This section also covers difficulties families experience in relation to their children's schooling, as well as their satisfaction with out of school activities.

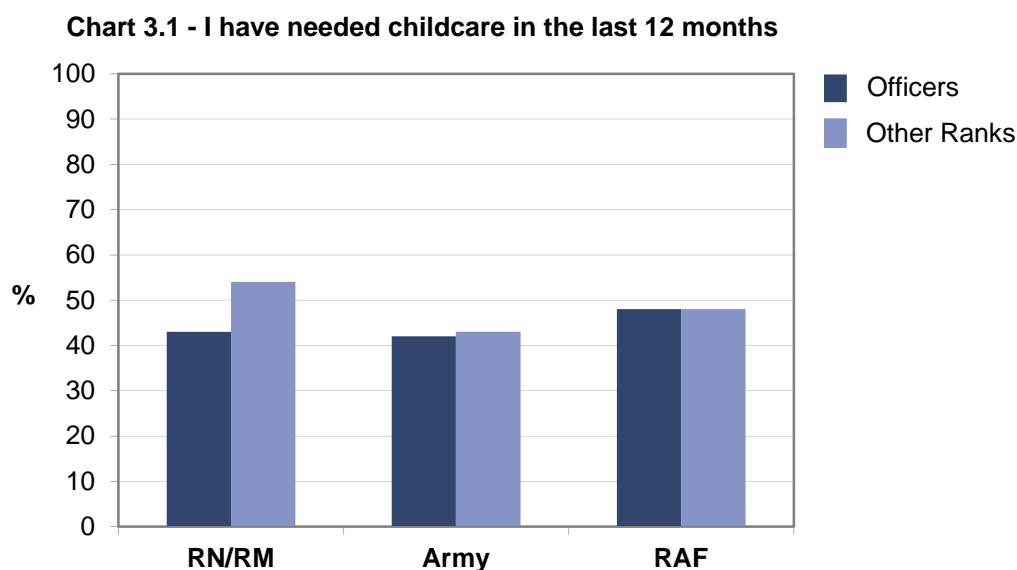
Service families with children

Three-quarters (77%) of families have children, a figure that has remained largely unchanged since 2012. A lower proportion of RAF families have children (72%) compared to the other two Services. Whilst 40% of families have at least one child under five years old and 41% have at least one child aged 5-17 years old, only 11% of families have at least one child over the age of 18.

Demand for childcare

In the last 12 months, 45% of families with children have needed childcare. The demand for childcare is lower amongst Army families (42%) than RAF (48%) and Naval Service families (51%). Families who have at least one child aged under five years are more likely to need childcare (71%) in comparison to those who do not have at least one child aged under 5 (25%).

Childcare is accessible to the majority of families who need it, with only 15% being unable to access it.



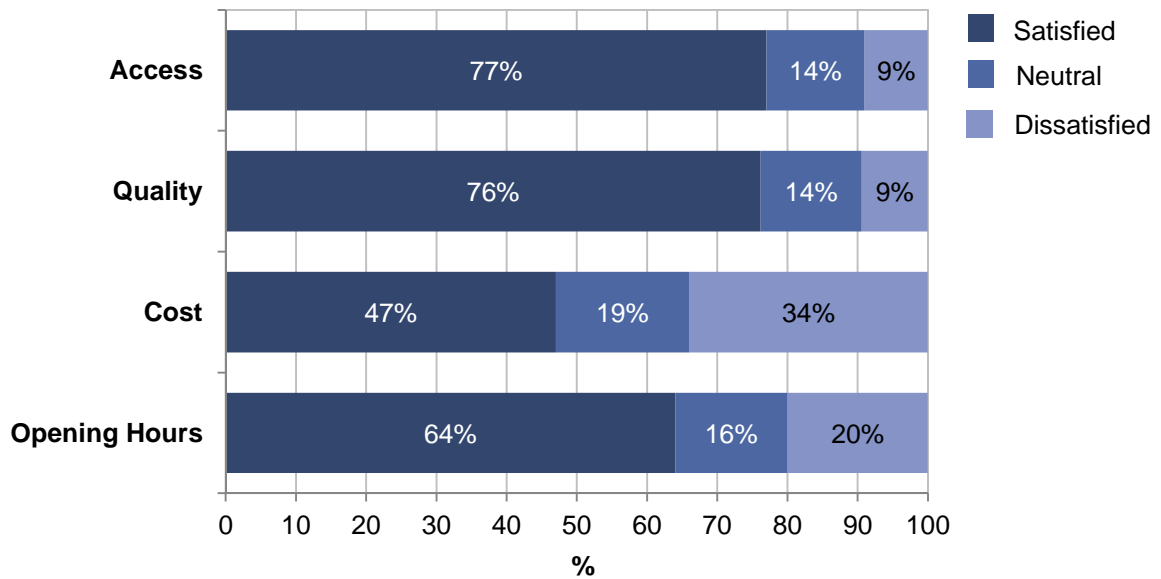
SUBSET: Responses filtered on those who have children (77%).

Satisfaction with local childcare facilities

Chart 3.2 indicates that a small proportion of families with children, who needed childcare, are dissatisfied with the access (9%) and quality (9%) of their local childcare facilities. A fifth (20%) are dissatisfied with the opening hours, and over a third (34%) with the cost of the facilities. Although the levels of satisfaction for all four aspects of childcare facilities are the same across the Services, there are some differences between Officer and Other Rank families.

RAF Other Rank families are more likely to be satisfied with access (82%) than RAF Officer families (71%). Over half (51%) of Naval Service Officer families are satisfied with the cost of childcare, compared to 39% of Naval Service Other Rank families. Similarly, a higher proportion of Army Officer families are satisfied with costs (58%) in comparison to Army Other Rank families (48%).

Chart 3.2 - How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your local childcare facilities?



SUBSET: Responses filtered on those who have children and needed childcare (35%).

Types of schooling

Nearly half of families (47%) have at least one child of school age, whilst 29% have children but not of school age.

Of those families with school age children, two-thirds (67%) have at least one child who attends a state school, 9% at an Independent Boarding School, 8% at a Service School and 5% at an Independent Day School. A higher proportion of Naval Service families with school age children have at least one child at a state school (85%) compared to RAF (77%) and Army families (56%). Other Rank families (69%) are more likely to have at least one child at a state school compared to Officer spouses (60%). Officer families are more likely to have at least one child in attendance at an Independent Boarding School (22%), compared to Other Rank families (4%).

Data Quality Note

Figures on attendance at different schools should be interpreted with caution due to high number of missing Army responses (23%).

Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA)

CEA is an allowance offered by the MOD to provide children with continuity in their education, and enable the spouses of Service personnel to accompany them on postings. 14% of Service families with school age children receive CEA. Officer families (28%) are more likely to be in receipt of CEA compared to Other Rank families (9%). This is likely due to the higher proportion of Officer families with school age children attending Independent Boarding and Day Schools.

Data Quality Note

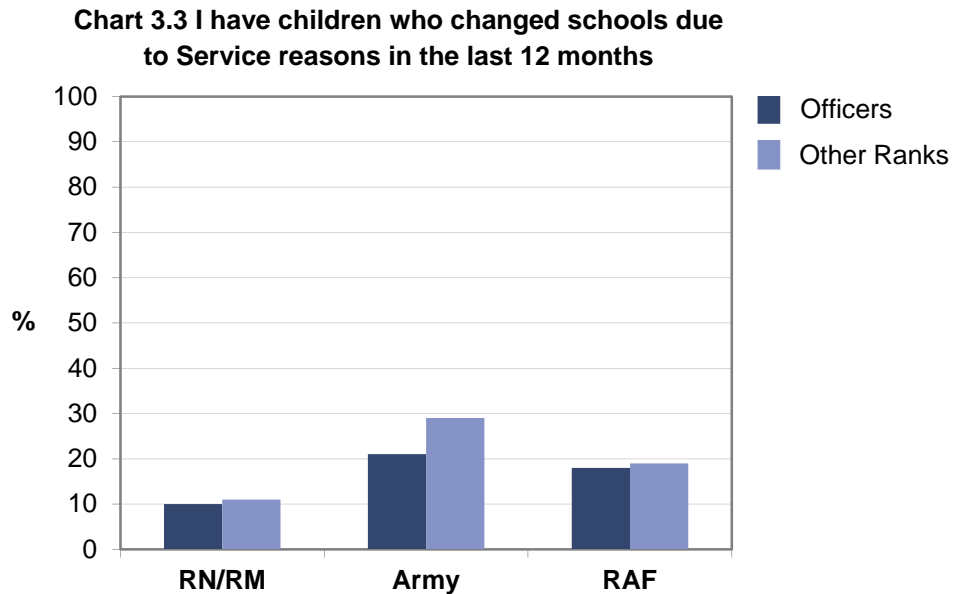
Although administrative data is broadly in line with the percentage of families in receipt of CEA, there may be some over-estimation in the survey results.

Satisfaction with out of school activities

Over half of families with school age children are satisfied with the availability (58%) and quality (58%) of out of school activities run by the school. Satisfaction with out of school activities run by Local Authorities/third parties is slightly lower, with just 37% of families being satisfied with the availability and quality. These differences may be due to a lack of demand, as a higher proportion of Officer families consider the availability (35%) and quality (36%) of Local Authority/third party run activities to be 'not applicable' compared to Other Rank families (14% and 16% respectively).

Changing schools

In the last 12 months, the impact of Service life resulted in 22% of families with school age children having to change schools for Service reasons. 9% of families had to change schools for other reasons, whilst 69% did not have to change. A higher proportion of Army families (27%) had to change schools for Service reasons compared to RAF (19%) and Naval Service families (11%). This is particularly an issue for Army Other Rank families (29%), compared to Army Officer families (21%).



SUBSET: Responses filtered on those who have school age children (47%).

Difficulties experienced with children's schooling

Table 3.4 shows the five most common difficulties experienced by Service families in relation to their children's schooling. Two-thirds of families with school age children (68%) did not experience any difficulties with their children's schooling. A higher proportion of Naval Service families did not experience any difficulties (76%) compared to other Service families. Other Rank families were more likely to have a problem with getting a place (12%), and the distance to the school (10%) than Officer families (8%,7%).

Table 3.4 Top 5 most common difficulties experienced with children's schooling

	% of families with school age children
I did not experience any difficulties	68
Getting a place at the school of your choice	11
Distance to school	10
Unsuitable educational standard of your local school	9
Getting enough information about schools in your area	8

SUBSET: Responses filtered on those who have school age children (47%).

Data Quality Note

These figures exclude missing responses i.e. those that did not tick any 'difficulties' (7%).

Families with school age children who changed schools for other reasons are less likely to have experienced any difficulties than those who changed schools for Service reasons. Twice as many families who had changed schools for Service reasons had difficulty with getting a place at the school of their choice (28%) compared to those who changed schools for other reasons (14%).

Key Questions - Childcare and children's education

Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2014	% Change from 2012
B3.8 ¹	Needed childcare and was able to access it.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	85	N/A	N/A
B3.9 ¹	Satisfied with the access of local childcare facilities.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	77	N/A	N/A
B3.14 ²	Have at least one child who attends a state school.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	67	N/A	N/A
B3.17 ²	Have at least one child who attends a Service school.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	8	N/A	N/A
B3.20 ²	Children changed schools for Service reasons in the last 12 months.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	22	N/A	N/A
B3.25 ²	Did not experience any difficulties with children's schooling.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	68	N/A	N/A

¹ SUBSET: Responses filtered for those who have children and needed childcare (35%).

² SUBSET: Responses filtered for those who have school age children (47%).

Section 4 - Deployment

Section 4 seeks to find out about spouses' experiences of the support and information services available to them before, after and during their spouse's deployment. This includes whether or not respondents know where to find welfare support or information.

Use¹ of support

Overall the majority of families know where to go for welfare support and information provided by the Services (64%).

The level of use is perhaps more of a concern. 'Lines of communication with your spouse' **during** their deployment (91%) is used the most followed by 'direct contact and support from your spouse's Chain of Command' both **before** and **during** the deployment (both 68%). However, less than half (48%) of spouses use 'welfare support' **after** the deployment has ended.

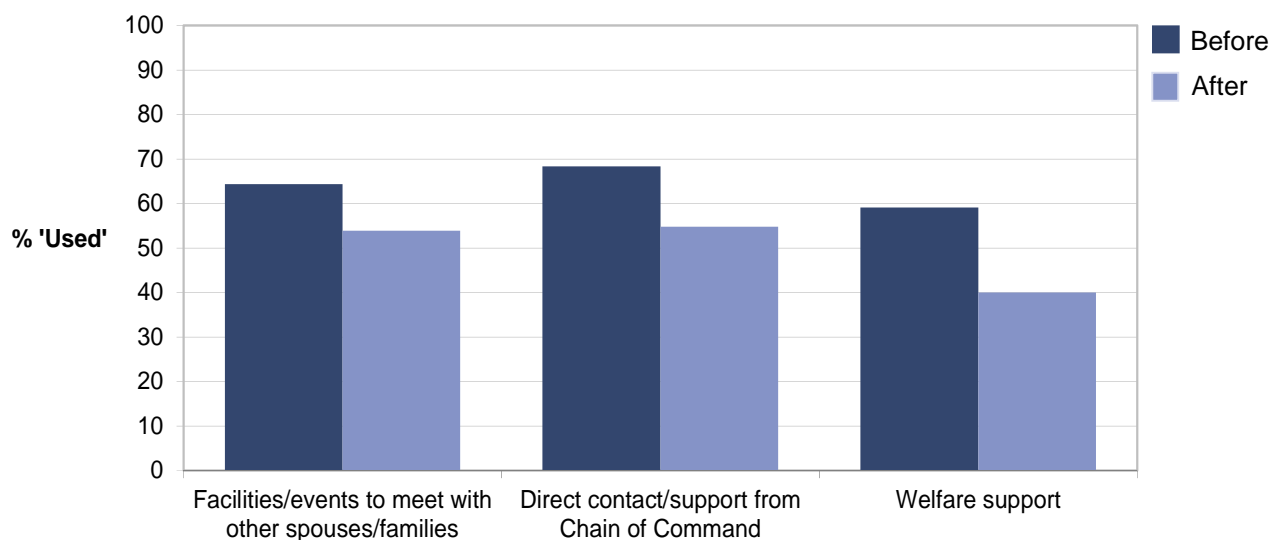
Usage of these support services differs greatly by Service. Whilst Army spouses have the highest usage levels for almost all of the support types, RAF spouses have the lowest levels of use across all types of support. For example, just 27% of RAF spouses use welfare support **after** the deployment compared to 68% of Army spouses.

Usage also differs by time period (i.e. whether the support is used before, during or after deployment). Whilst the use of each support type **before** and **during** deployment is fairly similar, spouses' use of support **after** the deployment is lower for the three types as shown in Chart 4.1.

Data Quality Note

Apart from B4.2, the results shown in this section only include those whose Serving spouse has been on an Op Tour in the past 2 years.

Chart 4.1 - Use of each type of support before and after the deployment



Levels of use for each support type for Army spouses is similar (within each time period). However, Naval Service and RAF spouses tend to make more use of support from the Chain of Command followed by 'facilities/events to meet other spouses/families'.

¹Figures on 'Use' of support have been derived by summing those with a valid level of satisfaction i.e. those who did not tick 'did not use'.

Satisfaction with support

Families are most satisfied with 'lines of communication with your spouse' **during** deployment (61%), followed by 'welfare support' **before** deployment (50%). 'Facilities/events to meet other spouse/families' **after** deployment (33%) has the lowest level of satisfaction.

Support satisfaction also differs by Service, with Army spouses reporting the highest levels of satisfaction and Naval Service spouses reporting the lowest. These differences are consistent across all types of support; **before**, **during** and **after** deployment. Support which is provided **after** deployment tends to have lower levels of satisfaction, which is the case across almost all support types and Services.

Spouses are consistently more satisfied with 'welfare support' **before**, **during** and **after** deployment than any other type (excluding 'lines of communication' during deployment). Naval Service and RAF spouses are less satisfied with 'facilities/events to meet other spouses/families' than any other type of support. However, this is not the case for Army spouses who report similar levels of satisfaction with this and support from the Chain of Command.

Key Questions - Deployment support

Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2014	% Change from 2012
B4.2	Knows where to go for Service-provided welfare support during deployment.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	64	↔	↔
B4.3 ¹	Satisfied with welfare support used before spouse's most recent Op tour.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	50	N/A	N/A
B4.4 ²	Satisfied with direct contact/support from Chain of Command before deployment.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	42	N/A	N/A
B4.4 ³	Satisfied with facilities/events to meet other spouses/families before deployment.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	38	N/A	N/A
B4.10 ⁴	Satisfied with welfare support used after spouse's most recent Op tour.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	42	N/A	N/A
B4.11 ⁵	Satisfied with direct contact/support from Chain of Command after deployment.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	35	N/A	N/A
B4.12 ⁶	Satisfied with facilities/events to meet other spouses/families after deployment.	<p>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</p>	33	N/A	N/A

¹⁻⁶ SUBSET: Responses exclude 'Did not use', and missing responses (41%¹, 32%², 36%³, 52%⁴, 45%⁵ and 46%⁶ respectively).

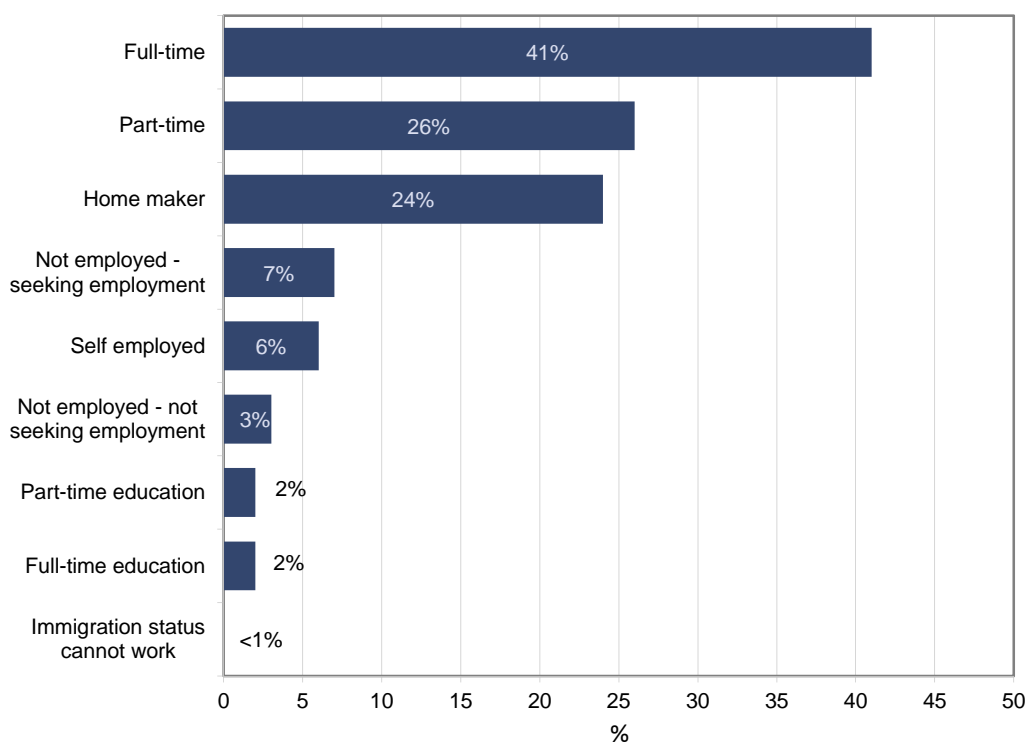
Section 5 - Employment

Section 5 provides information on employment status, job satisfaction and difficulties seeking employment. It also covers families who have accompanied their spouse overseas, regarding access to paid employment. There are also questions about families' access to further education and courses.

Employment status

The Army continues to have the lowest proportion of spouses in full-time employment (37%) while the RAF continues to have the highest (49%). More than half of RAF Other Rank spouses (51%) are in full-time employment, which is somewhat higher than RAF Officer spouses (44%). While there continues to be a low proportion of spouses who are self employed in each of the Services (6-7%), the figure for Officer spouses (9%) is almost double that of Other Rank spouses (5%). The Naval Service have the greatest proportion of spouses in part-time employment (31%).

Chart 5.1 - Current employment status



Data Quality Note

Comparisons with previous years are not possible due to changes in the number of missing responses prior to 2014.

'NA' and missing responses have been excluded.

This was a 'tick all that apply' question so totals will not sum to 100%.

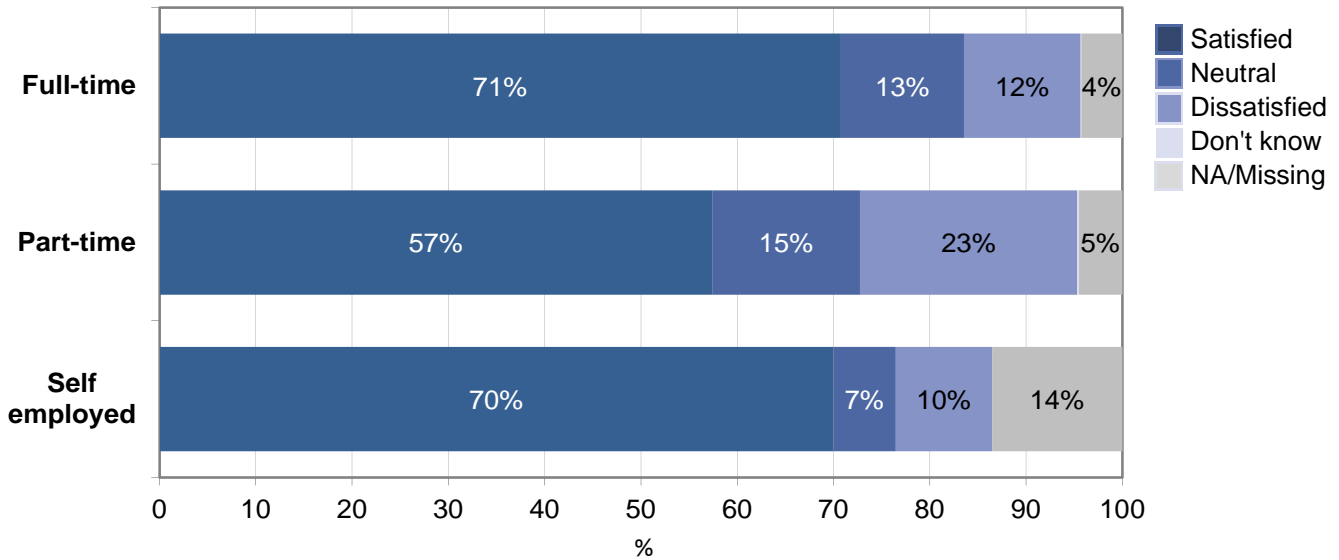
Overall, 1 in 10 Armed Forces spouses are unemployed, most of whom are currently seeking employment (7% of spouses, compared with 3% who are unemployed and not seeking employment). The Army has the highest proportion of spouses who report being a homemaker/parent at home (30%). The Naval Service has the lowest proportion of homemakers, dropping 4 percentage points from 2014 to 16% in 2015.

Job satisfaction

Overall, spouses' satisfaction with jobs differs little between those who are employed full-time, part-time or self employed, ranging from 73% to 74%. For those who are employed full-time and part-time, Officer spouses have higher levels of satisfaction than Other Rank spouses.

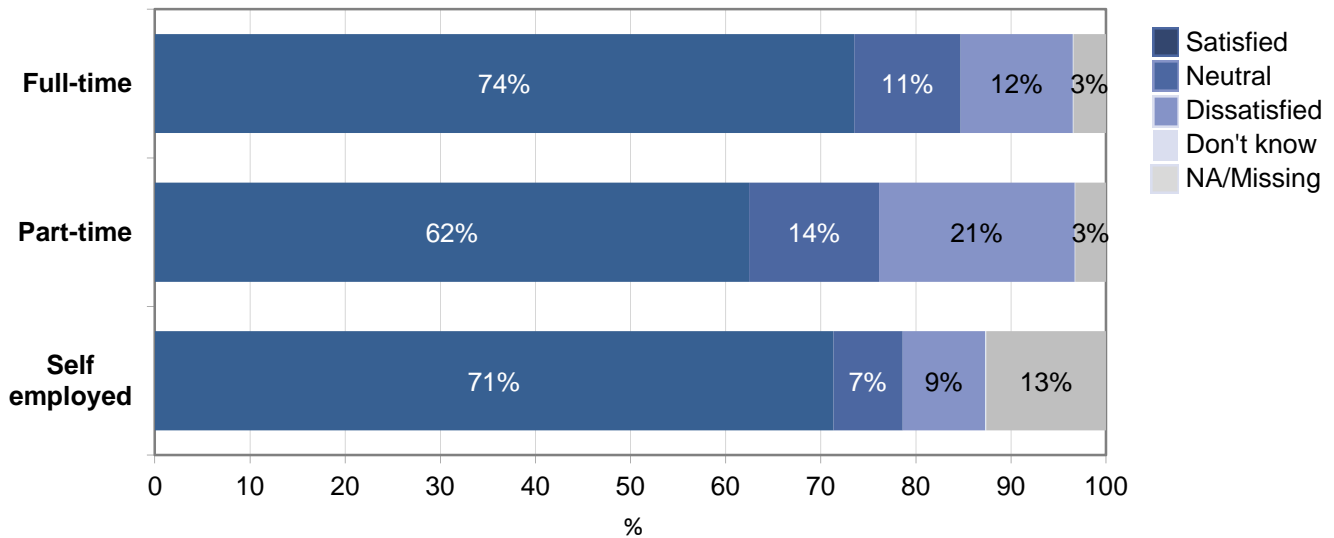
Chart 5.2 shows that those in part-time employment are less satisfied that their qualifications match their job than those who are self employed or in full-time employment.

Chart 5.2 - How satisfied are you that your qualification match your job?



Similarly, those in part time employment are less satisfied that their job matches their skills and experience, as shown in Chart 5.3.

Chart 5.3 - How satisfied are you that your job matches your skills and experience?



Spouses in part-time employment are most likely to want to work more hours (42%), particularly Other Rank spouses (46%) compared with Officer spouses (32%).

Seeking employment

The proportion of spouses who have been looking for a job in the last 12 months is highest in the Army (41%), and is greater for Other Rank spouses (39%) than Officer spouses (34%). Of the spouses who have been looking for a job in the last 12 months, the majority experienced difficulty in finding suitable employment (70%). This is particularly noticeable for Army spouses (74%), compared with Naval Service (63%) and RAF spouses (65%).

Table 5.4 - Difficulties finding employment

Difficulties	% of spouses seeking employment who experienced difficulty
Spouse often away	50%
Spouse in the Armed Forces	47%
Access to childcare	40%
Employment history	36%
Being overseas with partner	21%
Lack of relevant qualifications	16%

Data Quality Note

This is a 'tick all that apply' question so totals will not sum to 100%.

SUBSET: Responses filtered for those who have been looking for a job and have experienced difficulty (25%).

Difficulties seeking employment and accessing further education

The most common difficulties in finding suitable employment were due to their spouse often being away, and their spouse being in the Armed Forces. A minority report that a lack of relevant qualifications was the reason for having difficulty, though this figure was lower for Officer spouses (10%) than Other Ranks (18%). Officer spouses across the Services are more likely to report employment history (i.e. changing job regularly) as being a problem (42%) compared with Other Ranks (34%). The Naval Service has the lowest proportion of spouses reporting that their employment history had caused difficulty (24%).

Families who report that being overseas with their spouse causes difficulties in finding employment reflects the proportions of those who have accompanied their spouses overseas in the last 12 months (Navy families lowest with just 10%, and Army families highest with 26%). Other Rank spouses are more likely to report 'access to childcare' as being an obstacle to finding employment (44%) compared with Officer spouses (24%).

The proportion of families having difficulty accessing further education as a result of Service life is generally low (9%). Naval Service spouses are less likely to have difficulties (7%) compared with Army (11%) and RAF spouses (9%), and they are also less likely to experience difficulties continuing a course previously started (5%).

Key Questions - Seeking employment

Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2014	% Change from 2012								
B5.31	I have been looking for a job in the past 12 months.	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Service</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>RN/RM</td><td>34%</td></tr> <tr><td>Army</td><td>41%</td></tr> <tr><td>RAF</td><td>39%</td></tr> </table>	Service	Percentage	RN/RM	34%	Army	41%	RAF	39%	38	N/A	N/A
Service	Percentage												
RN/RM	34%												
Army	41%												
RAF	39%												
B5.32 ¹	I had difficulty finding suitable employment.	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Service</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>RN/RM</td><td>63%</td></tr> <tr><td>Army</td><td>74%</td></tr> <tr><td>RAF</td><td>65%</td></tr> </table>	Service	Percentage	RN/RM	63%	Army	74%	RAF	65%	70	N/A	N/A
Service	Percentage												
RN/RM	63%												
Army	74%												
RAF	65%												

¹SUBSET: Responses filtered for those who had been looking for a job (38%).

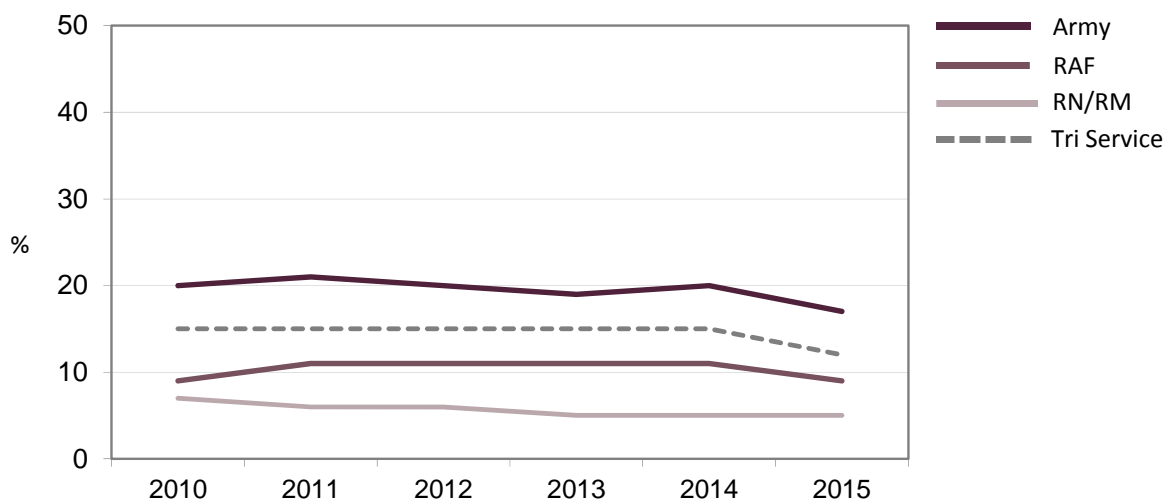
Accompanying overseas

The proportion of families accompanying their spouse overseas has been consistently 15% since FAMCAS began in 2010 up until 2014. In 2015, this decreased by 3 percentage points to 12%. The drop is largely attributable to the decrease in accompanying Army families, who showed the largest decrease of all the Services in 2015 (3 percentage points). Despite this drop, Army families are still more likely to accompany their spouse overseas (17%). Largely unchanged since 2010, Naval Service families continue to report the lowest rate of accompaniment (5%).

Of those families who accompanied their spouse overseas in the last 12 months, Naval Service families are less likely to be able to obtain paid employment without difficulty (7%). However, almost a third of Naval Service families (31%) chose not to do so. Army families are more likely to be able to obtain overseas employment without difficulty (28%), and the lowest proportion of those who were not able to (23%).

Almost two thirds of Service families were able to access Service-provided information before moving overseas (64%), although the Naval Service has the lowest proportion of accompanying families who were able to do so without difficulty (25%).

Chart 5.5¹ - Proportion accompanying their spouse overseas



Key Questions - Accompanying overseas

Ref	Question		Overall %	% Change from 2014	% Change from 2012								
B5.3	I have accompanied my spouse on overseas assignments in the last 12 months.	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for B5.3 - Accompanying spouse overseas</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Service</th> <th>Proportion (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RN/RM</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Army</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAF</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Service	Proportion (%)	RN/RM	12	Army	17	RAF	9	12	- 3	- 3
Service	Proportion (%)												
RN/RM	12												
Army	17												
RAF	9												
B5.4 ¹	I was able to obtain paid employment overseas (with or without difficulty).	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for B5.4¹ - Obtaining paid employment overseas</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Service</th> <th>Proportion (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RN/RM</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Army</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAF</td> <td>23</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Service	Proportion (%)	RN/RM	7	Army	28	RAF	23	48	N/A	N/A
Service	Proportion (%)												
RN/RM	7												
Army	28												
RAF	23												
B5.5 ¹	I was able to access Service-provided information before moving overseas (with or without difficulty).	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for B5.5¹ - Accessing Service-provided information</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Service</th> <th>Proportion (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RN/RM</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Army</td> <td>64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAF</td> <td>64</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Service	Proportion (%)	RN/RM	25	Army	64	RAF	64	64	N/A	N/A
Service	Proportion (%)												
RN/RM	25												
Army	64												
RAF	64												

¹SUBSET: Responses filtered for those who have accompanied their spouse/civil partner overseas (12%).

Section 6 - Healthcare

Section 6 covers spouses' experiences of the provision of healthcare services for Service families, including whether moving affects access to these services.

Access to healthcare services

Overall, the responses from families in 2015 appear to indicate that experiences of accessing healthcare services are largely positive, with only a small proportion of families unable to access healthcare services.

Dental treatment is the healthcare service which is reported as the most difficult to access overall, with 8% of families unable to access it. Hospital or specialist services are reportedly the least difficult healthcare services to access, with only 1% unable to access them. Responses are largely consistent between Officer families and Other Rank families, although there are some small differences.

The vast majority of families (86%) state that they did not need to access mental health treatment in the last 12 months. Of those that did need to access it, i.e. excluding families who 'did not need to' access it, 13% were unable to and a further 24% had some difficulties accessing it.

This suggests that although dental treatment access is an issue for the largest proportion of families, mental health treatment is the most difficult to access for those who actually need it.

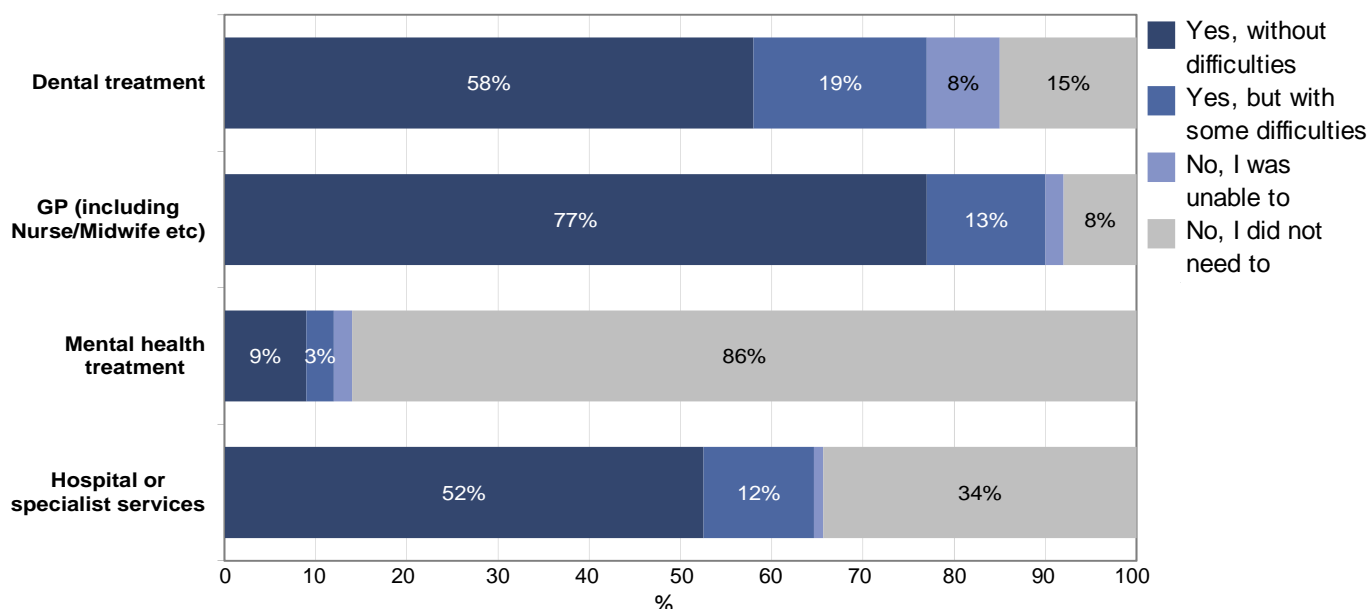
Data Quality Note

New filtering has been applied for 2015, therefore comparisons with previous years are not possible.

Missing responses are excluded from Healthcare analysis. For some questions this is a fairly large proportion of responses (up to 25%).

For further details please see the Healthcare tables.

Chart 6.1 - In the last 12 months, have you/your children been able to access the following healthcare services?



SUBSET: Responses filtered for those indicating that they either have children and/or are not currently serving in the Armed Forces (96%).

Differences between countries

Experiences regarding the provision of healthcare services appears to be fairly consistent in general between families based in different countries. However there are some differences.

For example, families living outside the UK are less positive about GP (including Nurse/Midwife etc.) access, with 71% indicating that they were able to access services without difficulties, compared to 77% overall.

Continuing healthcare treatment in a new location

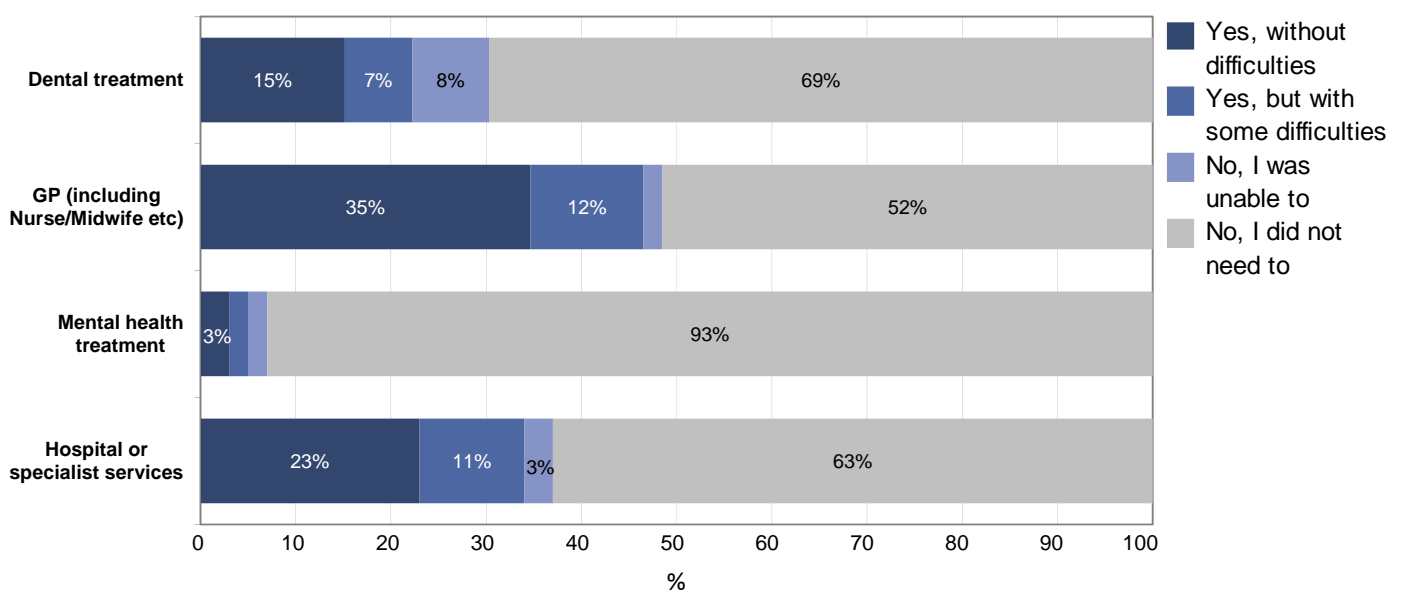
Spouses who have moved in the last 12 months were asked if they or their children were able to continue courses of treatment in their new location.

In addition to being reported as the most difficult healthcare service to access, dental treatment is also reported as the most difficult to continue in a new location, with 8% of families unable to do so. Families are less likely to be unable to access the other healthcare services (3% or less).

Of the 7% of families who moved whilst on a waiting list for an operation/consultants appointment, over a third (34%) indicate that moving increases waiting times. However, a larger proportion (37%) indicate that moving did not increase waiting times. If 'Not applicable' responses are removed, these percentages rise to 40% and 44% respectively (with 16% indicating that they 'Don't know'). These figures are particularly relevant to the [Armed Forces Covenant](#), which states that Armed Forces personnel and their families should "retain their relative position on any NHS waiting list, if moved around the UK due to the Service person being posted". For further findings regarding the Armed Forces Covenant, please see Section 2.

A large proportion of families who have moved in the last 12 months indicate that they did not need to continue courses of treatment in their new location. This particularly applies to mental health treatment (93%). However, even if families who did not need to continue treatment are excluded, dental treatment is still the most negatively reported healthcare service. 25% of families who needed to continue dental treatment were unable to do so. This is primarily due to 38% of RAF families who needed to continue dental treatment but were unable to do so (compared to 19% for Naval Service families and 22% for Army families).

Chart 6.2 - If you/your children were undergoing a course of treatment with any of the following services at the time of your move, were you/your children able to continue the treatment in your new location?



SUBSET: Responses filtered for those indicating that they either have children and/or are not currently serving in the Armed Forces and have also moved within the last 12 months (32%).

Key Questions - Healthcare

Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2014	% Change from 2012
B6.1 ¹	Unable to access dental treatment.	<p>Stacked bar chart showing the percentage of respondents for each service branch: RN/RM (dark purple, ~5%), Army (light purple, ~5%), and RAF (dark purple, ~10%). The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100.</p>	8	N/A	N/A
B6.2 ¹	Unable to access GP (including Nurse/Midwife etc.) treatment.	<p>Stacked bar chart showing the percentage of respondents for each service branch: RN/RM (dark purple, ~2%), Army (light purple, ~2%), and RAF (dark purple, ~2%). The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100.</p>	2	N/A	N/A
B6.3 ¹	Unable to access mental health treatment.	<p>Stacked bar chart showing the percentage of respondents for each service branch: RN/RM (dark purple, ~2%), Army (light purple, ~2%), and RAF (dark purple, ~2%). The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100.</p>	2	N/A	N/A
B6.4 ¹	Unable to access hospital or specialist services treatment.	<p>Stacked bar chart showing the percentage of respondents for each service branch: RN/RM (dark purple, ~1%), Army (light purple, ~1%), and RAF (dark purple, ~1%). The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100.</p>	1	N/A	N/A
B6.5 ²	Unable to continue dental treatment in new location.	<p>Stacked bar chart showing the percentage of respondents for each service branch: RN/RM (dark purple, ~5%), Army (light purple, ~5%), and RAF (dark purple, ~10%). The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100.</p>	8	N/A	N/A
B6.6 ²	Unable to continue GP (including Nurse/Midwife etc.) treatment in new location.	<p>Stacked bar chart showing the percentage of respondents for each service branch: RN/RM (dark purple, ~2%), Army (light purple, ~2%), and RAF (dark purple, ~2%). The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100.</p>	2	N/A	N/A
B6.7 ²	Unable to continue mental health treatment in new location.	<p>Stacked bar chart showing the percentage of respondents for each service branch: RN/RM (dark purple, ~10%), Army (light purple, ~10%), and RAF (dark purple, ~10%). The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100.</p>	2	N/A	N/A
B6.8 ²	Unable to continue hospital or specialist services treatment in new location.	<p>Stacked bar chart showing the percentage of respondents for each service branch: RN/RM (dark purple, ~3%), Army (light purple, ~3%), and RAF (dark purple, ~3%). The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100.</p>	3	N/A	N/A
B6.10 ³	Operation/consultants appointment waiting time increased as a result of moving.	<p>Stacked bar chart showing the percentage of respondents for each service branch: RN/RM (dark purple, ~30%), Army (light purple, ~30%), and RAF (dark purple, ~30%). The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100.</p>	34	N/A	N/A

¹ SUBSET: Responses filtered for those indicating that they either have children and/or are not currently serving in the Armed Forces (96%).

² SUBSET: Responses filtered for those indicating that they either have children and/or are not currently serving in the Armed Forces and have also moved within the last 12 months (32%).

³ SUBSET: Responses filtered for those indicating that they either have children and/or are not currently serving in the Armed Forces and have also moved within the last 12 months and answered 'Yes' to question B6.9 (In the last 12 months, have you or any of your children been on a waiting list for an operation/consultants appointment?)(7%).

Section 7 - Housing

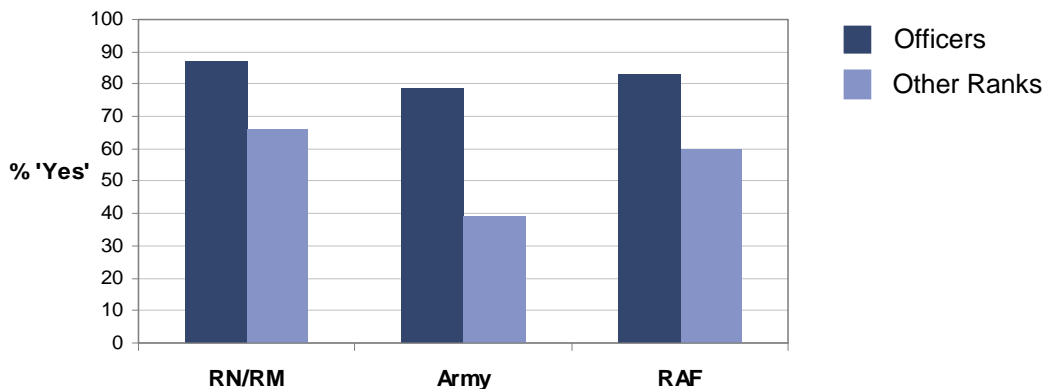
Section 7 covers the types of accommodation spouses live in during the working week, and how this compares to what they would like to live in. For those in Service Family Accommodation, it covers satisfaction with different aspects of SFA. This section also looks at home ownership, and the reasons for not owning a home.

Home ownership

Overall, 58% of Armed Forces families own their own home, and this is unchanged since 2011. This is a higher rate than amongst Armed Forces personnel overall; the 2015 [AFCAS](#) found that 45% of Regular personnel own their own home. This means that personnel with a spouse are more likely to own a home than personnel without a spouse. The highest rate of home ownership is in Naval Service families, at nearly three quarters, followed by RAF families, at two thirds, and finally Army families, at nearly half.

Officer families have a much higher rate of home ownership than Other Rank families, at 82% compared to 49%.

Chart 7.1 - Do you own your own home?



Non-home owners

Overall, 20% of families are saving to buy a home in the future, approximately half of the 42% of families who don't own their own home. 10% of all Officer families are saving to buy a home, whereas 24% of all Other Rank families are saving.

The lower rate of saving among all Officer families is unsurprising, as they are much more likely to already own their own home than Other Rank families. Of the families who don't own their own home already, Officer families are more likely to be saving to buy a home than Other Rank families.

The most prevalent reason for not owning a home remains 'We can't afford to buy a suitable home at the moment'.

Table 7.2 - Top five reasons not owning a home

	% of non-home owners
I/we can't afford to buy a suitable home at the moment	60
Living in Service accommodation is better suited to my family's needs at present	39
I/we want to be able to move with my spouse/civil partner when he/she is posted	37
I/we don't want to buy a home where we are currently located	27
I/we wouldn't be able to live in the home	13

SUBSET: Responses filtered for those who do not own their own home (42%).

Key Questions - Home ownership

Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2014	% Change from 2012
B7.1	Home owner.		58	↔	↔
B7.2	Currently saving up to buy a home in the future.		20	N/A	N/A

↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

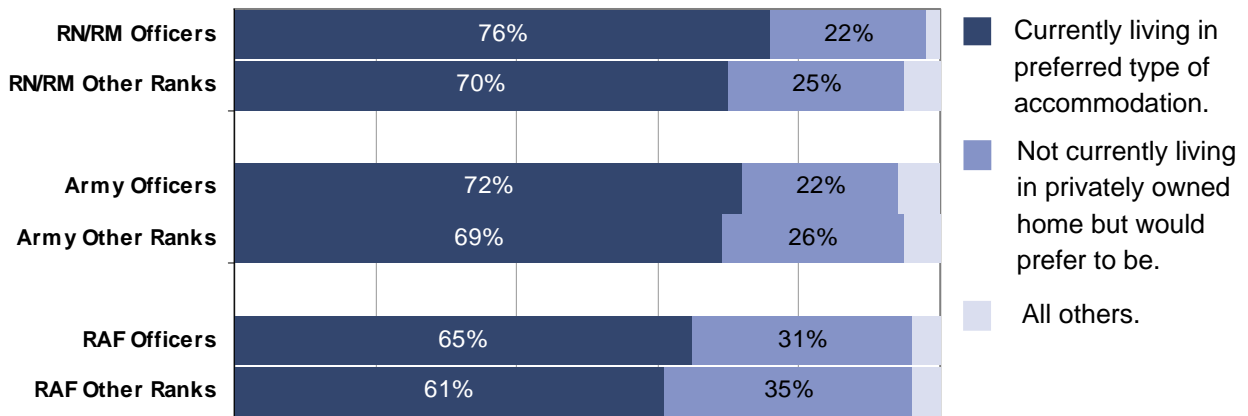
Current accommodation

Overall, the majority of families (62%) live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) or Substitute SFA during the working week, 33% live in a privately-owned home, and 2% live in Single Living Accommodation (SLA) or Substitute SLA. By comparison, according to [AFCAS 2015](#), 44% of Service personnel live in SLA or SSLA, 33% live in SFA or SSFA, and 15% live in a privately-owned home.

There are significant differences in current accommodation between the Services. Nearly three quarters (71%) of Army families live in SFA during the working week, compared to just over half of RAF families, and just over a third of Naval Service families. Most of the remainder live in privately owned homes. However, Army families also have the highest proportion who prefer to live in SFA, followed by RAF, then Naval Service families.

Overall, two thirds of Service families (68%) are living in their preferred type of accommodation. Just over a quarter (27%) are not in a privately owned home but would prefer to be. A lower proportion of RAF families are living in their preferred accommodation compared to the other two Services, and more RAF families would prefer to live in their own home.

Chart 7.3 - Proportion of Service Families by accommodation type and preference



Key Questions - Current accommodation

Ref	Response	Overall %	% Change from 2014	% Change from 2012
B7.12 ¹	Lives in Service Family Accommodation during the working week.	59	↔	↔
B7.12	Lives in privately owned home during the working week.	33	↔	↔
B7.14	Currently living in preferred type of accommodation.	68	↔	↔

↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

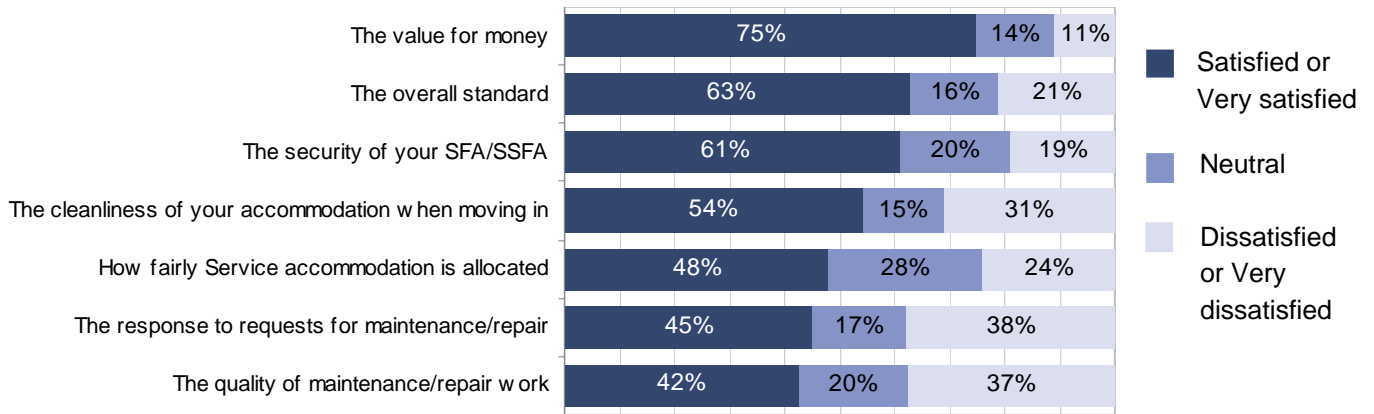
¹ Excludes those living in Substitute SFA.

Satisfaction with SFA/SSFA

For all seven aspects of SFA/SSFA included in the survey, a higher proportion of spouses who live in SFA/SSFA are satisfied than dissatisfied. As shown in Chart 7.4, the two aspects with the lowest satisfaction ratings relate to maintenance/repair work.

There are few substantial differences in the satisfaction ratings between Services.

Chart 7.4 If you live in SFA or SSFA, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following?



Service personnel were asked for their satisfaction with different aspects of their Service accommodation in AFCAS 2015. The levels of satisfaction of spouses who live in SFA/SSFA are broadly similar to the levels of satisfaction of Service personnel who live in SFA.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) undertakes a customer satisfaction [survey](#). While most of the DIO questions are not asked in FAMCAS, where there is overlap, the DIO results tend to show higher levels of satisfaction. For example, the 2014/15 DIO report found that 89% of customers are satisfied with value for money, compared to 75% for this year's FAMCAS. These differences may be due to the two surveys having different target populations (DIO targets customers whereas FAMCAS targets all spouses living in SFA), and methods of data collection (DIO uses telephone interviews whereas FAMCAS uses paper and online questionnaires).

Section 8 - Impact of Mobility

Section 8 looks at the impact of moving location on the spouses and families of personnel. It looks again at some of the questions from the previous seven sections, and compares the responses of those who moved for Service reasons with those who have not moved over the last 12 months.

Throughout this section the term “moved” refers to those who have moved for Service reasons.

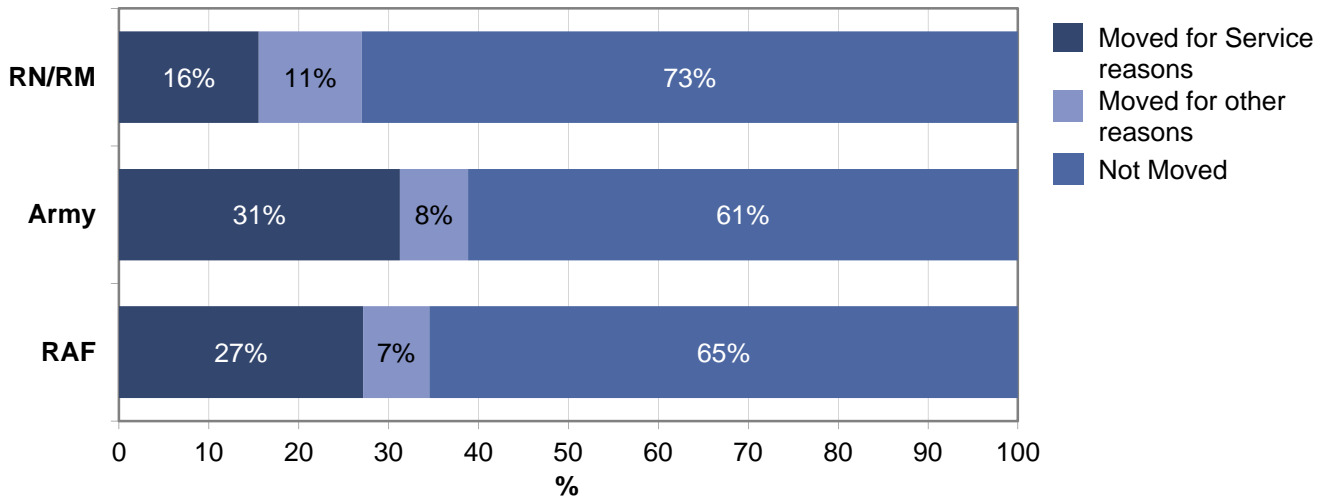
Introduction

Moving home can be the cause of disruption for many aspects of family life, 27% of Service families moved for Service reasons over the past year. This figure has remained largely unchanged over the past three years.

Army families are most likely to move for Service reasons (31%), whilst Naval Service families are least likely (16%).

This section compares the 27% of families who moved with the 65% of families who did not move.

Chart 8.1 - Have you moved in the last 12 months?



About you - separation

Families who have moved are more likely to live with their spouse (86%) than families who have not moved (74%). This is to be expected as those who move for Service reasons are likely to be accompanying their Serving spouse.

There is little difference between time spent away from home for those families who moved and those who did not. As a result there is no difference in attitudes towards separation for families who moved and those who did not.

Key Questions - About you - separation

		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>RN/RM</td> <td>Army</td> <td>RAF</td> </tr> </table>			RN/RM	Army	RAF
RN/RM	Army	RAF					
Ref	Response						
B8.1	I live with my spouse during the working week.		↑	↑	↑		

↑ indicates that the Moved rate is higher than the Not moved rate.

Armed Forces Covenant

Families who have moved in the last 12 months for Service reasons are less likely to have neutral feelings about the key Covenant issues of housing, education and healthcare compared to those who have not moved. A higher proportion of families who moved feel disadvantaged about their education (32%) compared to those who have not moved (20%). This is true for all Services and Officer/Other Rank groups, except Army Officers.

Positive and negative aspects of Service life

Families who have moved are more likely to feel strongly (either positively or negatively) about several aspects of Service life compared to those who have not moved. More spouses who have moved feel negative about the effect on their career than any other aspect of Service life (63%). In comparison, just over half (51%) of those who did not move feel negative about the impact of Service life on their career. Families who have moved also feel more negative about the frequency of house moves (55%) compared to those who did not move (31%). This difference is present across all three Services, and for both Officer and Other Rank families.

Spouses who have moved are more likely to feel positive about social aspects of Service life, for example social support for their family (26%) and knowing other military families (53%), than those who did not move (19% and 43% respectively).

Key Questions - Armed Forces Covenant

Ref	Response		RN/RM	Army	RAF
B8.9	I feel negative about the effect on my career.	<p>Moved: 63% Not moved: 51%</p>	↑	↑	↑
B8.11	I feel positive about Service provided facilities.	<p>Moved: 43% Not moved: 31%</p>	↑	↑	↑
B8.13	I feel negative about the frequency of house moves.	<p>Moved: 55% Not moved: 31%</p>	↑	↑	↑
B8.15	I feel positive about knowing other military families.	<p>Moved: 53% Not moved: 43%</p>	↑	↑	↔
B8.19	I feel positive about opportunities for travel.	<p>Moved: 43% Not moved: 31%</p>	↑	↑	↑

↑ indicates that the Moved rate is higher than the Not moved rate.

↔ indicates that the Moved rate and the Not moved rate are not significantly different.

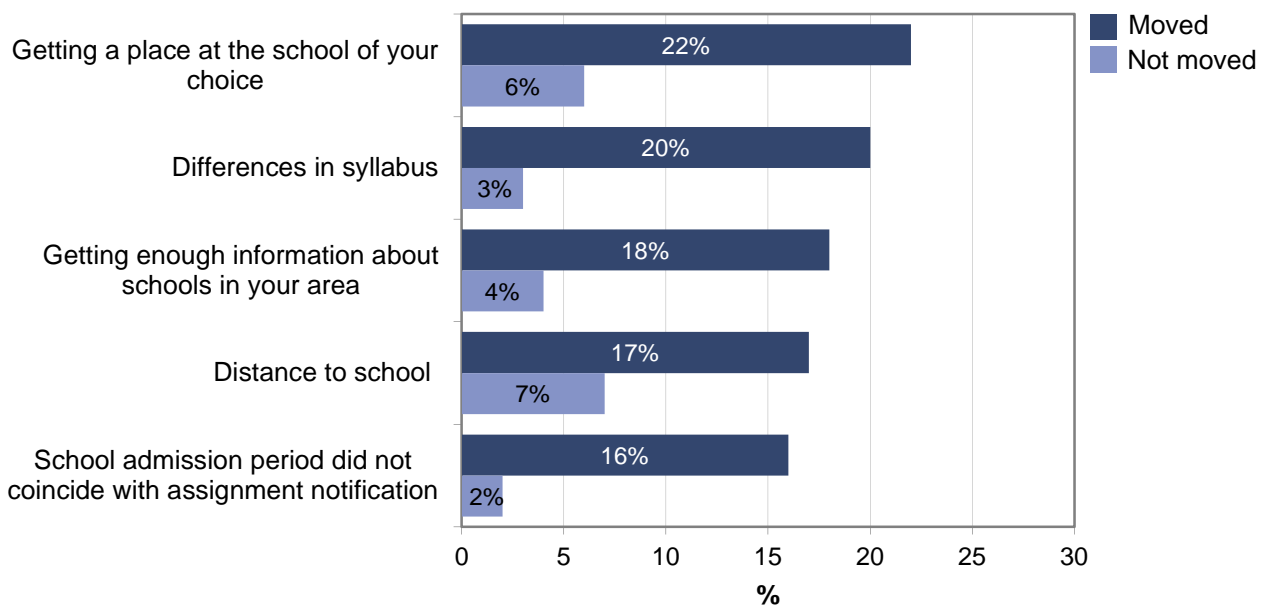
Childcare & children's education

Mobility as a result of Service life has not had a substantial impact on the proportion of families with children that needed childcare in the last 12 months, nor has it impacted their ability to access childcare if required.

Moving for Service reasons has a considerable impact on families in relation to their children's education. In the last 12 months the majority (75%) of families with school age children who moved had to change schools for Service reasons, compared to just 3% of families who did not move. 22% of families who moved did not need to change their children's school.

Families who moved are less likely to be satisfied with the availability and quality of out of school activities run by either schools or Local Authorities/third parties, compared to those who did not move. This is mainly driven by Officer families who have moved, 52% of whom are satisfied with the availability of out of school activities run by the school compared to 69% of Officer families who did not move.

Chart 8.2 - Top 5 most common difficulties experienced with children's schooling



SUBSET: Response based on those with school age children; moved (12%), not moved (32%).

Families who did move are more likely to experience some difficulties (54%) with their children's schooling than families who did not move (24%).

The most common difficulty experienced by families who moved was getting a place at the school of their choice (22%). Families who moved are more likely to have experienced difficulties with children's schooling compared to those who did not move, for all of the difficulties shown in Chart 8.2.

Key Questions - Children's education

Ref	Response		RN/RM	Army	RAF
B8.28 ¹	Changed children's school due to Service reasons.	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 5px;">Moved</div> <div style="width: 75%; height: 15px; background-color: #4b0020; border: 1px solid black;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="margin-right: 5px;">Not moved</div> <div style="width: 90%; height: 15px; background-color: #cccccc; border: 1px solid black;"></div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;"> 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 </div>	↑	↑	↑

↑ indicates that the Moved rate is higher than the Not moved rate.

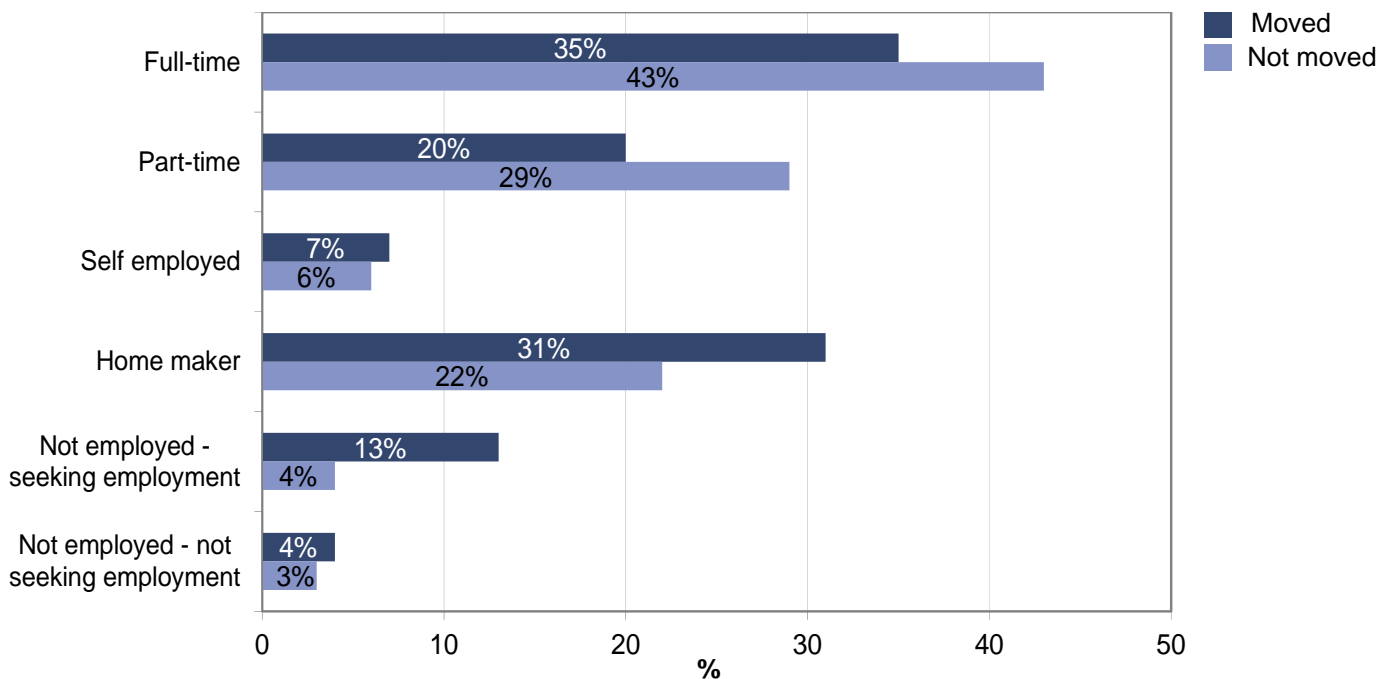
¹*SUBSET: Response based on those with school age children; moved (12%), not moved (32%).*

Employment

Those who have moved in the last 12 months are less likely to be in full-time or part-time employment, and more likely to be a home maker or not employed (see Chart 8.3). It follows that more than half of spouses who have moved are seeking employment (55%) compared with less than a third of those who have not moved (31%). Naval Service spouses are more likely to have difficulty finding suitable employment if they have moved (72% compared with 60% of those who have not moved), though this effect is not seen in the other Services.

Of those who reported difficulty in finding employment, a greater proportion of spouses who have moved identify 'frequent job changes' as being a source of difficulty (39% compared with 30% of those who had not moved). Furthermore, spouses who have moved are almost twice as likely to identify 'being overseas with their partner' as being a source of difficulty in seeking employment (29% compared with 15% of those who had not moved). This distinction is most pronounced for Naval Service spouses who have moved (25% compared with just 5% of those who have not).

Chart 8.3 - Proportion of spouses in different employment types



Spouses of Army personnel in full time employment are less likely to be satisfied with their job if they have moved (66% compared with 76% of those who have not moved). Naval Service spouses in part-time employment are also less likely to report satisfaction with their job if they have moved (58% compared with 75%).

Overall, spouses are more likely to experience difficulty with accessing further education if they move (14% compared with 8% of those who have not moved), and with continuing a course they had already started (11% compared with 5%).

Key Questions - Employment

Ref	Response		RN/RM	Army	RAF
B8.62	I have been looking for a job in the past 12 months.	Moved			
		Not moved			
B8.63 ¹	I had difficulty finding suitable employment.	Moved			
		Not moved			

↑ indicates that the Moved rate is higher than the Not moved rate.

↔ indicates that the Moved rate and the Not moved rate are not significantly different.

¹ SUBSET: Responses based on those who have been looking for a job; moved (14%), not moved (19%).

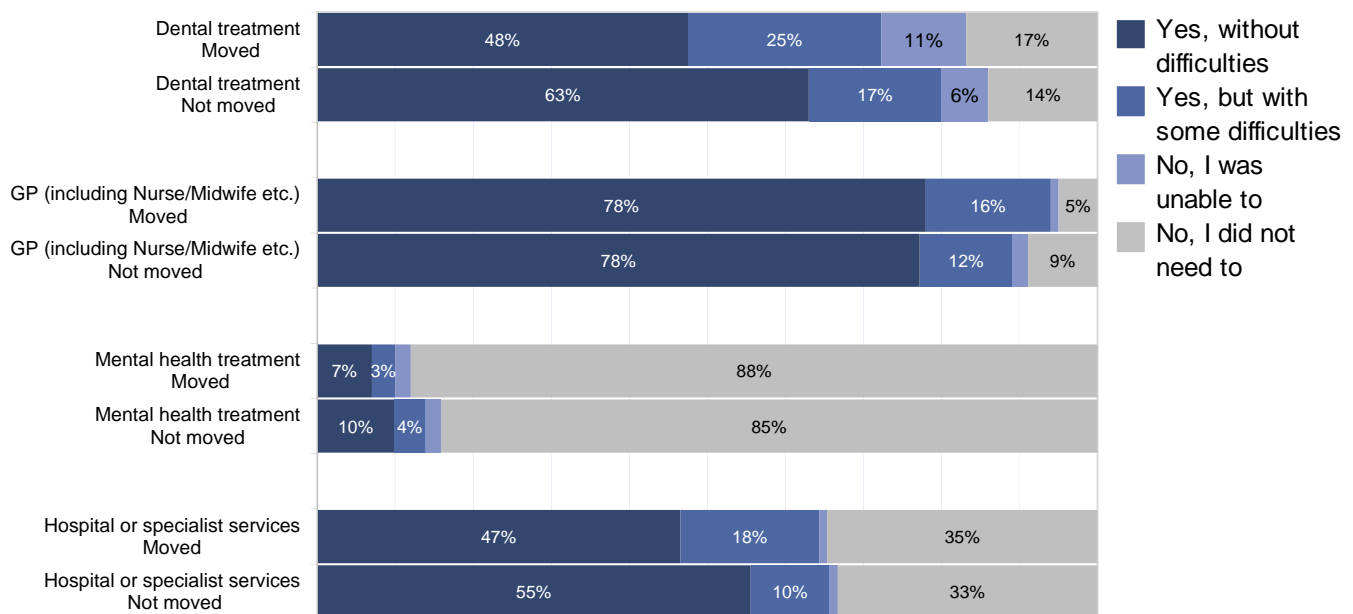
Healthcare

Overall, spouses who have moved appear to have more difficulty accessing healthcare services than spouses that have not moved.

This is particularly the case for dental treatment, where under half (48%) of families who have moved are able to access treatment without difficulties compared to 63% of families who have not moved. This difference holds for all Services and for both Officer and Other Rank families.

Furthermore, 18% of families that have moved were able to access hospital or specialist services but with some difficulties, compared to only 10% of families who have not moved. As shown in Chart 8.4, this holds for all healthcare services apart from mental health treatment.

Chart 8.4¹ - In the last 12 months have you/your children been able to access the following healthcare services?



As well as access, moving also has an impact on other aspects of healthcare. The difficulties of continuing healthcare service treatment in a new location, as well as the effect of moving on waiting times for an operation/consultants appointment are explored in Section 6.

Key Questions - Healthcare

Ref	Response		RN/RM	Army	RAF	
B8.71 ¹	Able to access dental treatment without difficulties.	Moved	48%	↓	↓	↓
		Not moved	63%			
B8.74 ¹	Able to access hospital or specialist services treatment without difficulties.	Moved	47%	↓	↓	↓
		Not moved	55%			

↓ indicates that the Moved rate is lower than the Not moved rate.

¹ SUBSET: Responses filtered for those indicating that they either have children and/or are not currently serving in the Armed Forces; moved (26%), not moved (61%).

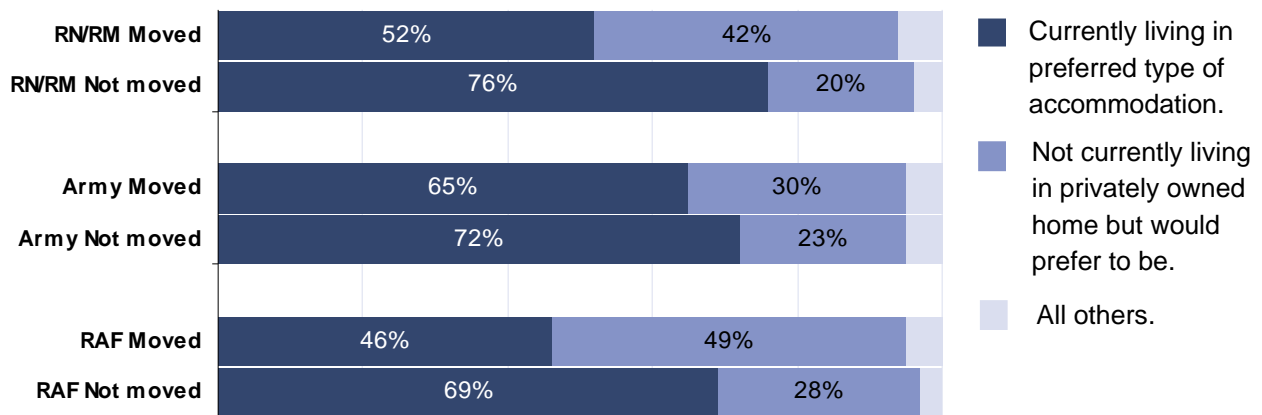
Housing

Spouses who have moved are less likely to own their own home than spouses who have not moved, at 47% compared to 61%. This is the case for all three Services, and for both Officer and Other Rank families.

Spouses who have moved are more likely to live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) during the working week than spouses who have not moved, at 80% compared to 53%. Also, spouses who have moved are less likely to live in a privately owned home, at 10% compared to 40% of spouses who have not moved. These differences between the moved and not moved rates hold for all three Services, and for both Officer and Other Rank families.

Overall, spouses who have moved have a lower rate of living in their preferred type of accommodation than those who have not moved, at 58% compared to 72%. As shown in Chart 8.5, this difference is particularly large in the Naval Services and RAF.

Chart 8.5 - Proportion of Service Families by accommodation type and preference



For families who live in SFA or Substitute SFA, there are no substantial differences in satisfaction with the different aspects of SFA or SSFA between those who have moved and those who have not moved.

Key Questions - Housing

Ref	Response		RN/RM	Army	RAF
B8.77	Lives in Service Family Accommodation during the working week.	Moved	80%	80%	80%
		Not moved	53%	53%	53%
B8.77	Lives in privately owned home during the working week.	Moved	10%	10%	10%
		Not moved	40%	40%	40%
B8.79	Currently living in preferred type of accommodation.	Moved	58%	58%	58%
		Not moved	72%	72%	72%
B8.79	Not currently living in privately owned home but would prefer to be.	Moved	38%	38%	38%
		Not moved	23%	23%	23%

↑ indicates that the Moved rate is higher than the Not moved rate.
 ↓ indicates that the Moved rate is lower than the Not moved rate.

Methodology

1. Target Population

The target population for FAMCAS 2015 was the spouses/civil partners of all trained UK Regular Armed Forces personnel including Gurkhas, excluding Special Forces and those deployed or attending training courses at the time the survey sample was drawn from the Joint Personnel Administration system.

2. The survey

FAMCAS is distributed mainly in paper format although the Naval Service run an electronic survey as well. The paper questionnaires are sent to the Serving Personnel who are asked to pass them onto their spouses/civil partners. Data collection ran from February 2015 to May 2015, a relatively long period which allows time for Service personnel to pass on the survey to their spouse/civil partners as some may be living separately due to postings/assignments.

The survey is completely anonymous. Individual level data are only available to a small group of civilian researchers working on analysis and report production but this does not contain any identifier which can be linked back to the Service person or their spouse/civil partners.

3. The sample and respondents

The total FAMCAS 2015 sample consisted of 30,838 personnel. FAMCAS questionnaires were issued to Service personnel selected under a (disproportionate) stratified simple random sampling process.

Samples were designed to provide sufficient responses to yield estimates with a reasonable margin of error under cost constraints. Due to low expected response rates most strata are a complete census. The table below shows the strata we are able to select a sample from and the level of precision¹ we aim for:

Table A1: Precision aimed for by strata

Strata	Precision
RN Officer England	4%
RN OR6-9 England	4%
Army Officer England	5%
Army OR6-9 England	5%
Army OR1-4 England	5%
RAF Officer England	5%
RAF OR6-9 England	5%
RAF OR1-4 England	5%

Based on 2014 response rates this sample design was expected to yield precisions of around 2.5% for each Service and 4% to 5% for each Rank group by Service. However, even though we conduct a census for Royal Marines we expect margins of error for each rank group to be closer to 7%. Margins of error for each question can be found in reference tables published alongside this report on the [FAMCAS webpage](#).

¹ Precision is based on half of a 95% confidence interval width, often referred to as the margin of error.

7,591 responses were used in the FAMCAS 2015 analysis, giving an overall response rate of 25%. The table below contains detailed information on the number of questionnaires issued and received along with corresponding response rates.

Table A2: Response rates by Service and rank group

		Sample size	Surveys returned	2015 response rate	2014 response rate
Royal Navy	Officers	2 251	789	35%	37%
	Ratings	5 350	1 109	21%	20%
	Total	7 601	1 898	25%	25%
Royal Marines	Officers	341	98	29%	34%
	Marines	1 544	286	19%	26%
	Total	1 885	384	20%	28%
Army	Officers	2 515	1 122	45%	42%
	Soldiers	11 303	2 240	20%	22%
	Total	13 818	3 362	24%	26%
Royal Air Force	Officers	1 860	633	34%	31%
	Airmen	5 674	1 314	23%	21%
	Total	7 534	1 947	26%	23%
All Services	Officers	6 967	2 642	38%	37%
	Ranks	23 871	4 949	21%	21%
	Total	30 838	7 591	25%	25%

Note that percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole % for ease of interpretation.

4. Weighting methodology and non-response

Due to the sample design and the differences in prevalence of non-response between the Service, rank and location strata, the distribution of characteristics amongst the FAMCAS respondents did not reflect the distribution in the whole Armed Forces Spouse/Civil partner population. Response rates tend to vary by strata, therefore responses are weighted by rank in order to correct for the bias caused by over or under-representation.

The weights were calculated simply by:

$$\frac{\text{Population size within weighting class (p)}}{\text{Number of responses within weighting class (r)}}$$

Weighting in this way assumes missing data are missing at random (MAR) only within weighting classes. This means we assume that within a single weighting class the views of non-respondents do not differ (on average) to the views of respondents.

The results for each respondent within each weighting class are multiplied by the weight for that class. This effectively scales up response to the population size. Classes with larger weights are less represented in the respondents and so need to be scaled up more.

Table A3: Weightings used for FAMCAS 2015 analysis

Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied
RN_OF5+_Eng	4.48	Army_OF5+_Eng	10.98	RAF_OF5+_Eng	10.03
RN_OF1+_Scot	2.80	Army_OF1+_NI	3.57	RAF_OF1+_Scot	5.07
RN_OF1+_NI/Wales	4.21	Army_OF1+_Scot	2.70	RAF_OF5+_NonUK	2.41
RN_OF1+_NonUK	4.68	Army_OF1+_Wales	5.59	RAF_OF1-4_Eng	9.82
RN_OF1-4_Eng	4.78	Army_OF5+_NonUK	2.71	RAF_OF1-4_Wales	5.04
RN_OR6-9_Eng	5.17	Army_OF1-4_Eng	11.30	RAF_OF1-4_NonUK	3.50
RN_OR1-9_NI/Wales	5.29	Army_OF1-4_NonUK	2.45	RAF_OR6-9_Eng	11.25
RN_OR6-9_Scot	5.72	Army_OR6-9_Eng	15.96	RAF_OR3-9_NI	4.50
RN_OR6-9_NonUK	4.71	Army_OR6-9_NI	4.84	RAF_OR6-9_Scot	6.14
RN_OR3-4_Eng	9.08	Army_OR6-9_Scot	4.14	RAF_OR6-9_Wales	5.46
RN_OR3-4_Scot	6.46	Army_OR6-9_Wales	8.02	RAF_OR6-9_NonUK	4.29
RN_OR1-4_NonUK	8.07	Army_OR6-9_NonUK	3.69	RAF_OR3-4_Eng	8.90
RN_OR1-2_Eng	12.46	Army_OR3-4_Eng	22.79	RAF_OR3-4_Scot	5.79
RN_OR1-2_Scot	8.93	Army_OR1-4_NI	13.85	RAF_OR1-4_Wales	7.17
RM_OF1+_Scot/Wales/NonUK	5.55	Army_OR3-4_Scot	7.38	RAF_OR3-4_NonUK	4.60
RM_OR6-9_Eng	5.38	Army_OR1-4_Wales	11.94	RAF_OR1-2_Eng	14.10
RM_OR6-9_Scot/Wales	5.25	Army_OR3-4_NonUK	7.00	RAF_OR1-2_Scot	9.08
RM_OR1-9_NonUK	7.17	Army_OR1-2_Eng	53.70	RAF_OR1-2_NonUK	8.37
RM_OR3-4_Eng	10.64	Army_OR1-2_Scot	9.08		
RM_OR1-4_Scot/Wales	7.67	Army_OR1-2_NonUK	19.63		
RM_OR1-2_Eng	15.33				

5. Analysis and statistical tests

Attitudinal questions in the questionnaires have generally been regrouped to assist in analysing results and to aid interpretation. For example, questions asked at a 5-point level (e.g. Very satisfied – Satisfied – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied – Dissatisfied – Very dissatisfied) have been regrouped to a 3-point level (e.g. (Satisfied – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied – Dissatisfied).

Missing values, where respondents have not provided a response/valid response, or 'don't know' or 'not applicable' responses have not always been included in the analysis. If they have been excluded then this will be detailed in table footnotes.

Some questions are filtered to exclude invalid responses, these "subsets" are detailed in table footnotes. As a result of these exclusions the unweighted counts (or 'n') will vary from question to question and these are shown within the reference tables published alongside this report on the FAMCAS webpage here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>

Where applicable, Z tests at a 1% alpha level were used to test whether observed estimates were significantly different to estimates from previous surveys. A statistically significant difference means that there is enough evidence that the change observed is unlikely to be due to chance variation (less than a 1% probability that the difference is the result of chance alone).

6. Format of the reference tables (published separately to the report on the FAMCAS webpage here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>)

Each reference table refers to a question asked in the survey and includes estimates of the proportion of the population by category. Each table is broken down by Service and also by Officer/Other Rank with the Total column referring to the Officers and Other Ranks results combined (All Ranks). Section 8 of the report looks at the impact of mobility on the responses to several questions. These tables compare results for respondents who moved for Service reasons to those who did not move. As such the format of these tables differs. These are all provided at Annex B.

Excel tables are also available with additional breakdown of the spouse/civil partners broad location (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales & Non UK), which are provided at Annex C.

Glossary

Armed Forces Covenant	The Armed Forces Covenant defines the principles for ensuring that Armed Forces personnel are not disadvantaged in their access to public and commercial services as a result of their service. It also sets out that in some cases special treatment may be appropriate, for example for those that have given the most, such as the injured and the bereaved.
Armed Forces Pay Review Body	Provides independent advice to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Defence on the pay and charges for members of the Naval, Military and Air Forces of the Crown.
Defence Board	The highest committee in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and is responsible for the full range of Defence business, other than the conduct of operations.
HIVE	Service information hub which assists personnel in a wide variety of topics affecting their everyday Service and personal life
JPA	Joint Personnel Administration - JPA is the system used by the Armed Forces to deal with matters of pay, leave and other personal administrative tasks
Married	Refers to those married or in a civil partnership
Marines	RM personnel of NATO ranks OR1 to OR9
Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee (MODREC)	Ensures that all research involving human participants undertaken, funded or sponsored by the MOD meets nationally and internationally accepted ethical standards
Missing at Random (MAR)	Statistical theory that states that those who did not respond to a question do not differ from those who did respond
Missing value(s)	Refers to the situation where a respondent has not submitted an answer or a valid answer to a question
MOD	Ministry of Defence
N/A	Not applicable
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
Naval Service	Comprises the Royal Navy (including the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service) and the Royal Marines combined.
Non-response	Refers either to a person who although sampled and sent a questionnaire did not reply or to a respondent who did not reply to a question
OF	Officer of NATO rank designation ranking from '1' lowest to '10' highest
Officer(s)	All regular trained officers of NATO ranks OF1 to OF10
Operational/Deployment Welfare Package	Measures taken to support the morale of Service personnel by making the fullest possible provision for their emotional and physical wellbeing whilst on operational deployment
OR	Other Ranks of NATO rank designation ranking from 'OR1' lowest to 'OR9' highest
Other Rank(s)	Other Ranks are members of the Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force who are not Officers. The equivalent group in the Royal Navy is known as "Ratings".
RAF	Royal Air Force
RM	Royal Marines
RN	Royal Navy
Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR)	In the context of the Services, refers to a Review of what needed to be done to restructure and rescale the size of the Armed Forces to meet future Defence requirements of the UK's national security.
Service Accommodation	Any type of accommodation that includes 'SFA', 'SSFA', 'SLA', 'SSLA' and 'Onboard a ship or submarine'
Service(s)	Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and RAF
SFA	Service Family Accommodation
SLA	Single Living Accommodation
SNCO	Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (NATO ranks OR6 to OR9)

Soldiers	Army personnel of NATO ranks OR1 to OR9
Special Educational Need (SEN)	Children who have needs or disabilities that affect their ability to learn
Spouse	Refers to spouses and civil partners
SSFA	Substitute Service Family Accommodation
SSLA	Substitute Single Living Accommodation
Standard Error	A measure derived using weighting factors from the sample proportion and unweighted count in a sampling distribution and used as a benchmark in order to ascertain a range of values within which the true population proportion could lie
Statistically significant	Refers to the result of a statistical test in which there is evidence of a change in proportions between years
Statistical tests	Refers to those tests which are carried out to see if any evidence exists for a change in response proportions from one year to another
Trained strength	Trained Strength comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 Training includes all new entry training to provide basic military skills. • Phase 2 Training includes initial individual specialisation, sub-specialisation and technical training following Phase 1 training prior to joining the trained strength.
Unit	A sub-organisation of the Service in which personnel are employed
Unweighted count	Refers to the actual number who provided a valid response to a question in the survey
Weighting (factors)	Refers to factors that are applied to the respondent data set by Service and rank group in order to make respondent Service rank groups representative of their population equivalents
Weighting class	Refers to those members of a specific rank group to whom a weighting factor is applied
X-Factor	Additional payment to Armed Forces personnel to compensate for differences in lifestyle, working conditions and expectations compared to civilian equivalents
z test	Statistical test based on a standardised distribution which allows comparison between years for populations of different sizes

Further Information

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