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of Defence

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Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 10 August 2015 requesting the following information:

**“How many MoD personnel are currently based in Scotland?  
What percentage of total MoD personnel is this number?  
Is there any projection for how many MoD personnel will be based in Scotland for 2015-16 and 2016-17?”**

Following further communications on 11 August 2015 the request was clarified to be:

**“My request relates to a combination of armed forces personnel and civilian MoD personnel.”**

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in getting this response to you and see below, the information you have requested on MoD personnel stationed in Scotland and projections of Military Personnel in Scotland for 2016-17.

**As at 1 July 2015, approximately 17,700 (7.1 per cent) of the 249,010 MOD personnel were stationed in Scotland.**

#### Notes

1. MOD personnel comprises Civilians, UK Regulars, Gurkhas, Volunteer Reserves, serving Regular Reserves and Sponsored Reserves.
2. Stationed location is where an individual is permanently based and not their location of residence - where personnel work is not necessarily where they live.
3. Military personnel numbers are sourced from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. Location data are based on the stationed location of the individual as recorded in the 'Assignment Location' field of the JPA system. The figures are based on Service personnel's stationed location and not their location of residence - where personnel work isn't necessarily where they live. Personnel deployed on operations to an area away from their stationed location are shown against their most recent stationed location.
4. MOD civilian personnel data are compiled from several sources. Further information for Core MOD Personnel, Trading Funds, Locally Engaged Civilians (LEC's), The Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) and Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) is available in the Background Quality Report for our Quarterly Locations Statistics available at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/location-of-all-uk-regular-service-and-civilian-personnel-quarterly-statistics-index>.
5. MOD personnel stationed location statistics have been reported as an approximation because stationed location for Reserves and Gurkha personnel has not been validated.
6. Rounding. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages have been calculated from unrounded totals.

With regards to projections for how many MoD personnel will be based in Scotland for 2015-2016, actuals have been provided in the table above as at 1 July 2015 which falls in the financial year 2015/16. Projections of Military Personnel based in Scotland for 2016-17 can be seen below.

## Projections for 2016-17

### Military Personnel

#### Projections for Trained UK Regular Liability based in Scotland

	2016/17
RN/RM	4 720
Army	4 040
RAF	c.1 750

**Please note that figures for projections of Military personnel *based* in Scotland are not comparable to the figures of MoD personnel *stationed* in Scotland because the populations are not the same. The population for projections does not include Gurkhas or Reserves personnel and are for trained personnel only. A closer comparison for the Service element of the personnel stationed in Scotland would be to use the 9,400 figure from the 1 July 2015 Quarterly Location Statistics but this still is not an exact match. Liabilities are calculated using posts and not personnel numbers.**

Future Force 2020 sets out an MOD vision of modern adaptable and agile forces in 2020. In order to deliver this vision there are ongoing re-configurations, re-organisations and consolidations of existing organisational units. This response has captured such changes which are currently envisaged in 2016/17. On current plans, by 2020 Scotland will be home to all of the Royal Navy's submarines, one of the Army's seven Adaptable Force Brigades and one of three RAF fast jet main operating bases. This demonstrates our commitment to Scotland and to its continued vital role in defence.

As at 1 July 2015 there were 3700 MOD civilian personnel in Scotland. In July 2014 the MOD carried out an exercise to understand what its future civilian workforce strength might look like. Based on the fact that the MOD civilian strength has been reducing consistently over previous year, the exercise anticipated that in 2016/2017 the total MOD civilian strength would be smaller than was in July 2014. When the anticipated reduction was proportioned out by geographic location an estimated figure of 3400 for Scotland in 2016/17 was generated. This figure is not based on any definite plans or known closures and is not being used as a reduction target. The exercise used historical trends to anticipate an overall reduction in the MOD civilian workforce. It did not differentiate by geographic location and proportioning out possible reductions by geographic area was conducted only as an illustrative exercise. In the exercise the proportioning out by geographic location generated the workforce would stay static or fall in all locations of the UK, not just in Scotland.

In response to your request I have searched for information held about definite plans about changes to the MOD civilian workforce in Scotland. In December 2014, agreement was reached that the responsibility for the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre will transfer from the MOD to the Department for Transport in a phased approach to be completed by no later than 31 March 2016. It has also been agreed that the Centre's function will relocate from Kinloss Barracks to the National Maritime Operations Centre at Fareham under the auspices of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. There are 27 RAF posts and 10 civilian posts who will be affected by the Aeronautical Rescue and Coordination Centre's transfer.

You may also be interested to note work is currently ongoing on a Strategic Defence and Security Review which will set the strategic framework for Defence in the UK, including strategy for the MOD civilian workforce.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering **Military Personnel** and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing [DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)