



UK Tri-Service Families Continuous Attitude Survey Results 2018

● Annual

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United Kingdom

This statistical release provides results from the Families Continuous Attitude Survey (FamCAS) 2018, along with results from previous years.

Statistics from FamCAS are used by both internal Ministry of Defence (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 Armed Forces People Programme.

Satisfaction with Service family life



61% are **satisfied** with their quality of life married to a member of the Armed Forces.

However...

- **50%** feel **disadvantaged** about family life.
- **50%** **do not** feel part of the wider Service community.
- **56%** **do not** feel valued by the Services.

22% of families moved for Service reasons last year

These families are more likely to live with the Serving spouse amongst other Service families.

32% feel part of the wider Service community *compared to 23% of those who did not move*

However, they experience more upheaval, for example:

58% looked for a new job *compared to 35% of those who did not move*

This contributes towards other, more negative feelings such as:

68% feel negative about the effect of Service life on their career *compared to 55% of those who did not move*

Service spouse employment



76% are **employed** broadly comparable to the UK employment rate for women.

However...

Four in ten spouses looked for a new job in the past year



And over one in four spouses experienced difficulties finding suitable employment.

Responsible Statistician: Surveys Head of Branch Tel: 020 7218 1359 Email: DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Surveys@mod.gov.uk

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-Surveys@mod.gov.uk

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About these statistics

The Families Continuous Attitude Survey (FamCAS) is a Tri-Service annual survey of the spouses/civil partners of Regular trained Service Personnel. This survey is one of the main ways that the Department gathers information on the attitudes and experiences of Service families.

The 2018 FamCAS was distributed to a sample of 27,062 trained Regular Service personnel who were married or in a civil partnership. The Serving person was then asked to pass the questionnaire on to their spouse. The survey used both online and paper questionnaires and was open from February to April 2018.

Response rates:

Overall 5,502 valid responses were received, representing a response rate of 20%.

This is a five percentage point decrease on 2017.



About this statistical release

Throughout this report the term “married” refers to those who are married or in a civil partnership and the term “spouse” refers to spouse/civil partner. The term RN/RM is used as an abbreviation of Royal Navy/Royal Marines.

Throughout this report there are references to “AFCAS 2018 comparisons”. These are based on a subset of AFCAS results for Service personnel who are married/in a civil partnership. As a result these will not match previously published AFCAS results: www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-index.

National comparisons are provided for context but are not directly comparable due to the demographic differences of the general population and the population of Service spouses.

This report includes a section on the impact of mobility, which compares results of those who moved for Service reasons with those who did not move.

Reference tables and an example of a FamCAS 2018 questionnaire are published as separate documents and can be found on the FAMCAS webpage - www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index

Please also see the Background Quality report at the webpage above 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 are not 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 background demographics of Service spouses and their families as well as information about how often they move and the amount of separation they experience.

The estimates provided below are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA)¹.

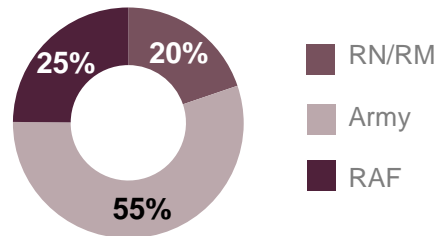
Over 65,000 Regular trained Service personnel are married or in a civil partnership¹

Data Quality Note

This estimate is derived from a self-reported, non-compulsory field on JPA. As such there may be some under-reporting. The 2018 Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey (AFCAS) stated 53% of Service personnel were married/in a civil partnership, which would equate to over 70,000 personnel.

Just over half of all Service spouses are married to Army personnel¹ % married Service personnel by Service

This distribution broadly reflects the relative size of the Services.



75% of Service spouses are married to Other Ranks¹

25% of Service spouses are married to Officers¹

The majority of Service spouses (81%) live in England¹

One in ten live in other UK countries and the remaining 9% live outside the UK.

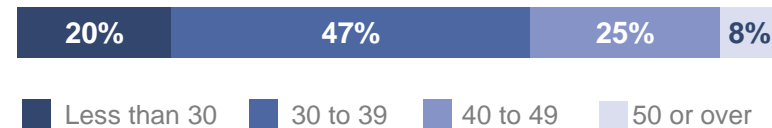
Estimates within the rest of this report are taken from the FamCAS survey. Comparisons to other data sources are referenced.

Just over nine in ten Service spouses are female

This reflects the fact that the majority of Serving personnel are male².

About two thirds of Service spouses are aged under 40

% Service spouses by age

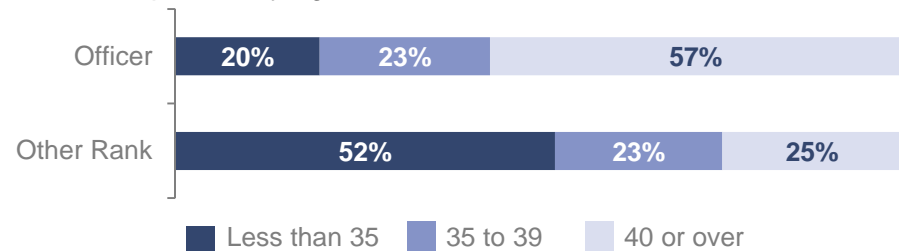


National comparison

On average, female Service spouses are younger than married women in the general UK population, reflecting the age profile of Service personnel. The 2016 national age profile³ of married women for England and Wales estimates over half are aged over 50.

On average, Other Rank spouses are younger than Officer spouses, reflecting the age difference between Officers and Other Ranks²

% Service spouses by age



¹ Source: The Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA) as at 1 April 2018.

² Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2018>

³ Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationestimatesbymaritalstatusandlivingarrangements/2002to2016>

78% of Service families have children

39% of Service families have at least one child aged under 5

52% of Service families have at least one child of school age



76% of spouses are employed¹



Army spouses are less likely to be employed (72%) than RN/RM or RAF spouses (both 81%). Army Other Rank spouses are less likely to be employed (71%) than Army Officer spouses (77%).

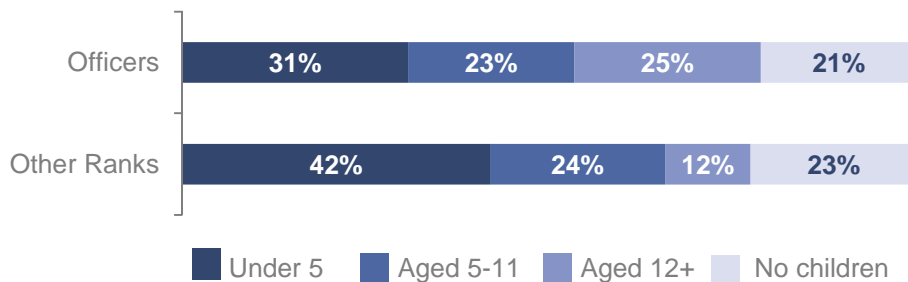
Just over one in five families do not have children

% families by number of children



Other Rank families tend to have younger children than Officer families

% families by age of youngest child



This difference is largely driven by Army families: 46% of Army Other Rank families have a youngest child aged under 5 compared to just 30% of Army Officer families.

9% of spouses are also serving in the Regular Armed Forces

Couples where both partners are members of the Regular Armed Forces are referred to as dual-serving couples. Officer spouses are more likely to be dual-serving (12%) than Other Rank spouses (9%).

60% of spouses are homeowners



The proportion of homeowners differs greatly by Rank and Service, ranging from 44% for Army Other Rank spouses to 88% for RN/RM Officer spouses.

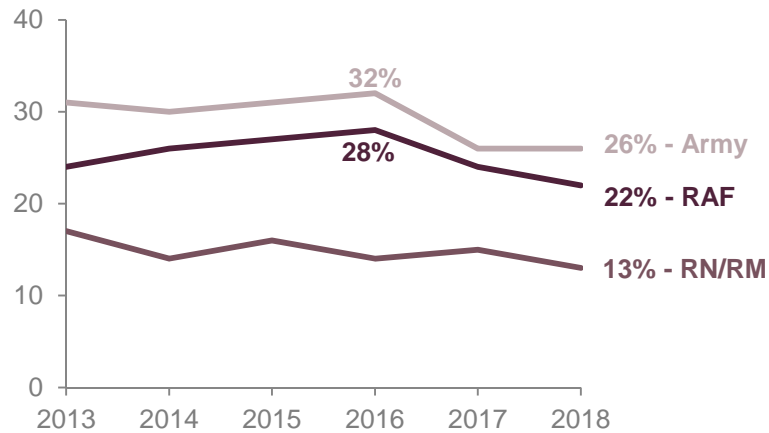
AFCAS 2018 comparison

These results are consistent with the AFCAS 2018 findings, which found 60% of married Service personnel are homeowners.

¹ Employed refers to those in full-time, part-time or self employment.

Just over a fifth (22%) of Service families moved for Service reasons over the past year

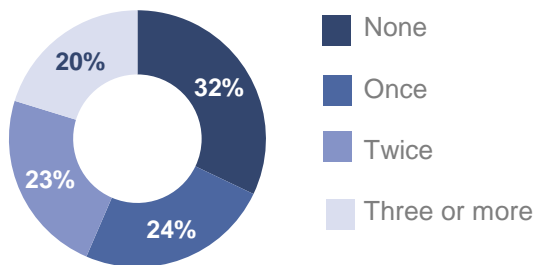
% families moved for Service reasons



This proportion has fallen since 2016, largely driven by changes for Army and RAF families. Higher proportions of Army and RAF spouses moved for Service reasons than RN/RM spouses. Officer spouses are more likely to move for Service reasons than Other Rank spouses.

About seven in ten spouses have moved for Service reasons at least once in the last five years

% spouses by the number of times moved over the past five years

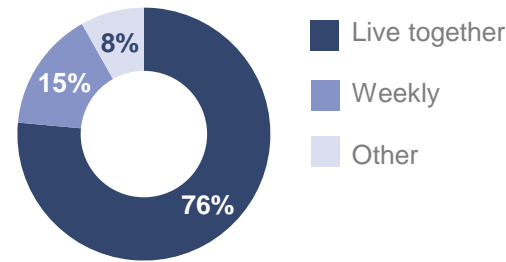


Service personnel are often posted to new locations and many spouses choose to accompany them rather than be separated. This means that Service spouses are also a very mobile population.

Officer spouses and spouses of Army and RAF personnel are, on average, more mobile than those married to members of the RN/RM or Other Ranks.

Just over three quarters of Service couples live together

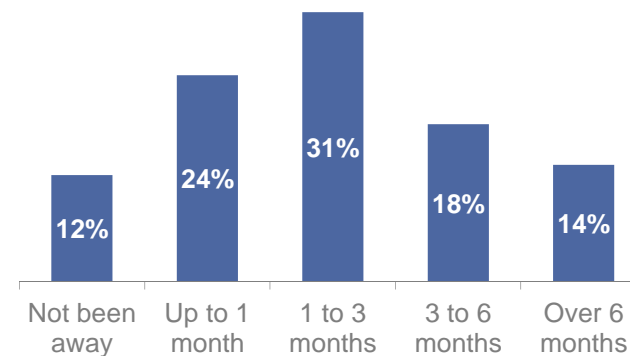
% spouses by how often they see their Serving partner



These proportions differ by both Service and Rank. Officer spouses are less likely to live with their partner (71%) as are spouses of RN/RM personnel (63%).

Despite the high proportion of Service couples living together, nearly a third of couples were separated from their partner for over three months last year

% families by amount of separation



AFCAS 2018 comparison

These are broadly similar to the AFCAS 2018 results for time spent away from home for married Service personnel.

The amount of separation differs by Service with a higher proportion of RN/RM spouses reporting separation of more than three months (42%) than Army or RAF spouses (31% and 27% respectively).

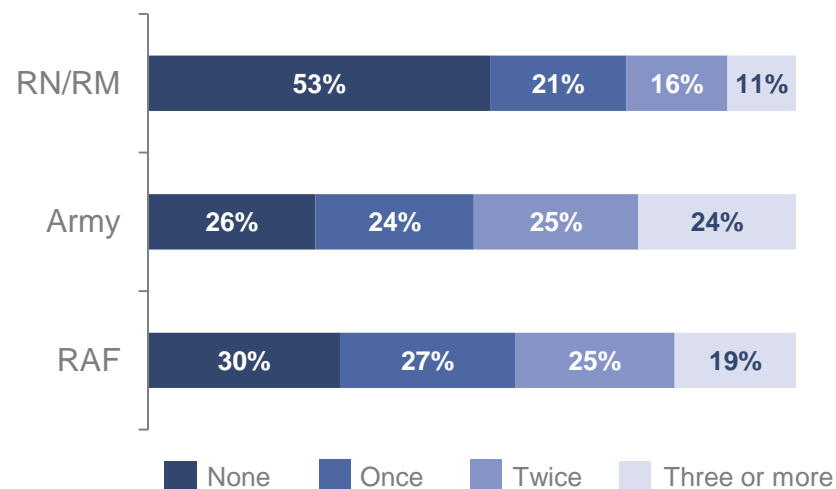
Section 2 - Service comparisons

There are differences in the survey results between Services which reflect the unique challenges faced by each. In particular RN/RM families experience lower mobility but higher separation than Army or RAF families. This section highlights the main differences in their experiences of, and attitudes towards Service life.

RN/RM families are less mobile; over half of RN/RM families have not moved for Service reasons over the past five years

This compares to 26% for Army and 30% for RAF families.

% families by number of times moved for Service reasons over the past five years



13% of RN/RM families moved home for Service reasons in the last 12 months

This compares to 26% of Army and 22% of RAF families.

6% of RN/RM spouses accompanied their partner on an overseas assignment during the past year

This compares to 12% of Army and 11% of RAF families.

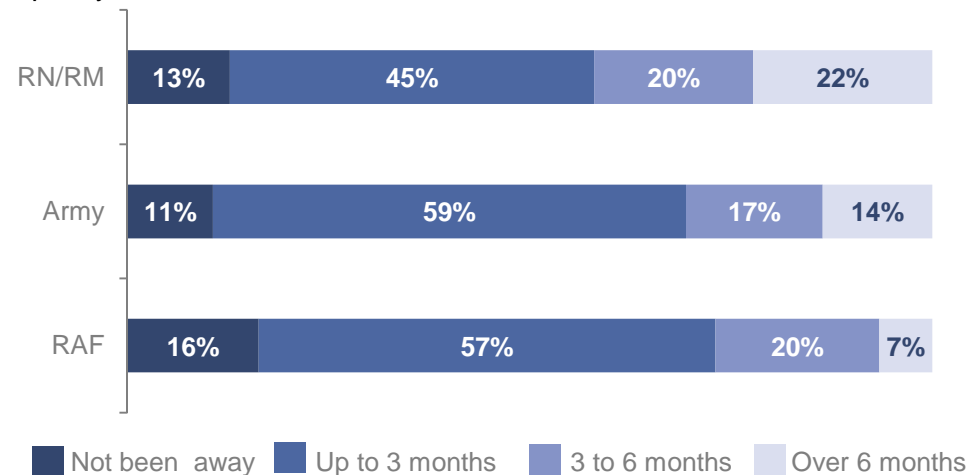
RN/RM spouses are less likely to live with their partner during the working week

63% of RN/RM spouses live with their partner during the working week

This compares to 78% of Army and 82% of RAF spouses.

RN/RM spouses are more likely to have experienced separation of more than six months over the past year

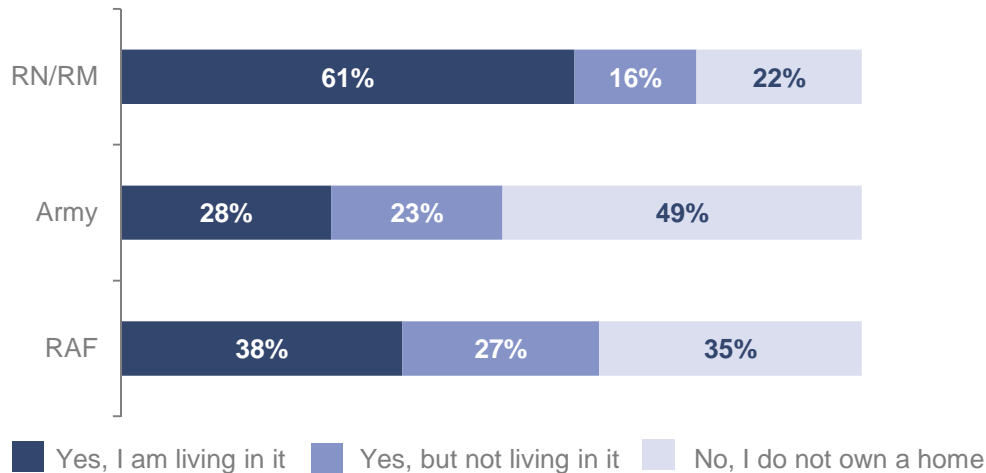
Amount of time the Serving spouse has been away for Service reasons in the past year



Royal Navy families cannot accompany Service personnel at sea. This tends to encourage home ownership, which provides stability. Despite this, Royal Navy spouses are still more likely to experience separation during the working week even if the Service person is based onshore.

RN/RM families are more likely to own a home than Army or RAF families

% own their own home



RN/RM families are also more likely to live in their own home than Army or RAF families. Army families are more likely to live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) (67%) than RAF (57%) or RN/RM (33%) families.

RN/RM families are less likely to have children who changed school for Service reasons or to have experienced difficulties with their children's schooling

Of those families with school age children¹.....

8% of RN/RM families had children who changed school for Service reasons in the past year

This compares to 21% of Army and 18% of RAF families.

15% of RN/RM families experienced difficulties with their children's schooling in the past year

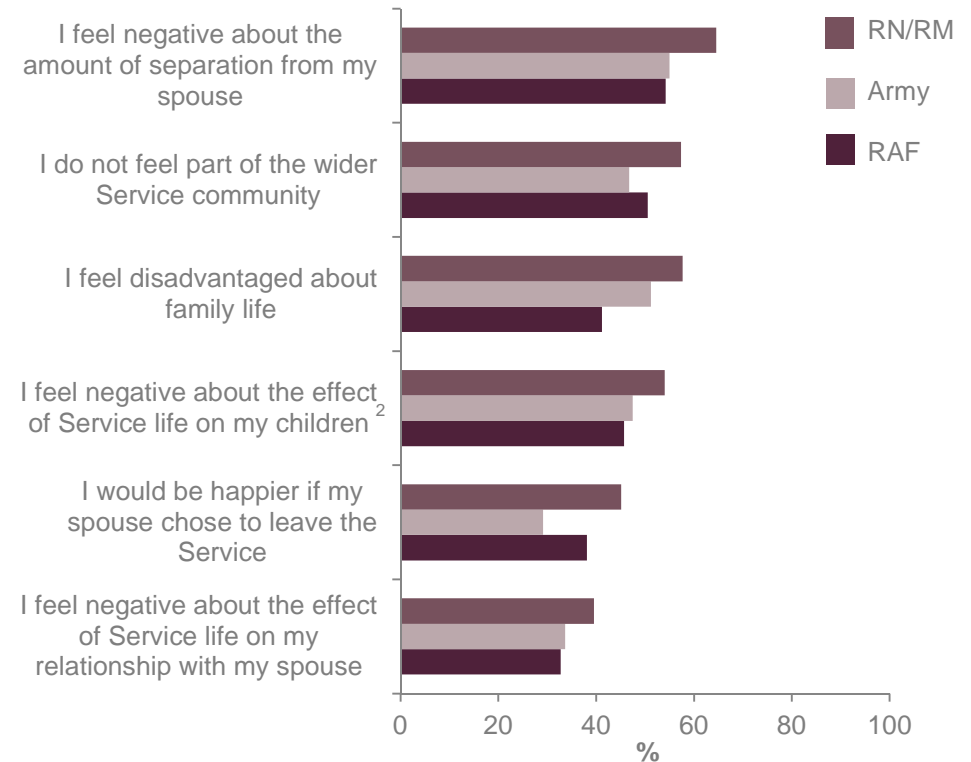
This compares to 25% of Army and 23% of RAF families.

¹ SUBSET: Families with school age children (52%).

² SUBSET: Families with children (78%).

Despite some benefits of stability, the higher levels of separation experienced by RN/RM spouses may impact on their views of Service life.

RN/RM spouses feel more negative than Army and RAF spouses about many aspects of Service life



RN/RM spouses also feel less positive about knowing other military families and community support for their family.

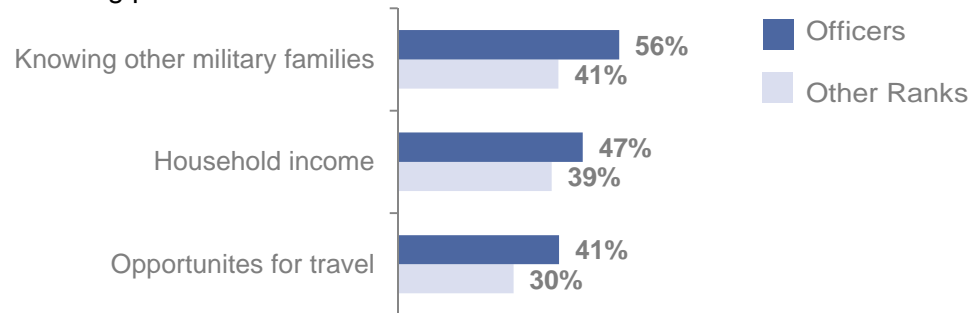
Army spouses are more positive about Service-provided facilities and opportunities for travel. Also, more Army spouses agree that they feel part of the wider Service community and feel valued by the Service. However, they feel more negative about household income and less positive about job security.

Section 3 - Officer/Other Rank comparisons

This section compares results for Officer and Other Rank families, highlighting the main differences in their experiences of and attitudes towards Service life.

Officer spouses feel more positive about many aspects of Service life

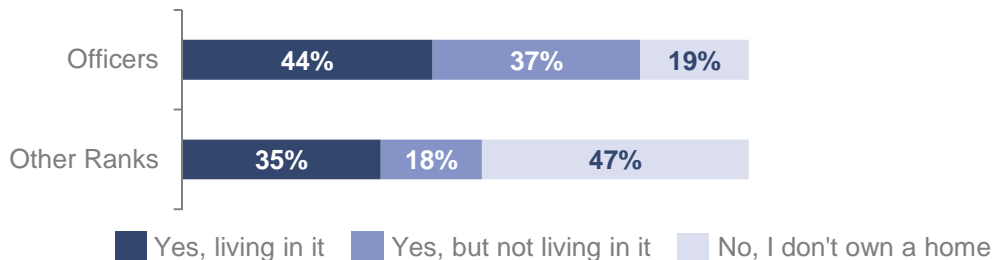
% feeling positive about...



Officer spouses are also more satisfied with their quality of life married to member of the Armed Forces (66%) than Other Rank spouses (59%). Officer spouses have higher average well-being scores and are also more likely to feel part of the wider Service community (33%) than Other Rank spouses (21%).

Officer families are much more likely to own a home (81%) than Other Rank families (53%)

% owning their own home



Other Rank families are more likely to live in SFA (61%) and feel advantaged about housing (38%) than Officer families (49% and 30% respectively).

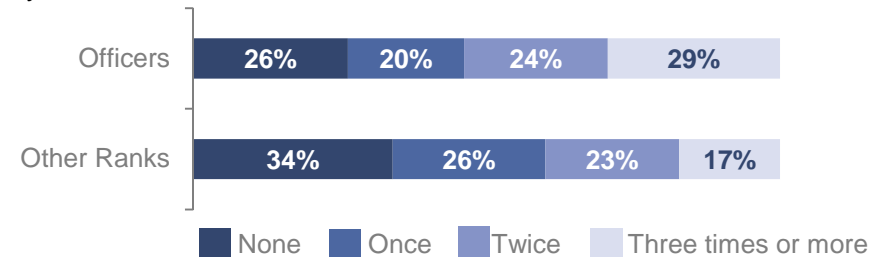
¹ Continuity of Education allowance is offered by the MOD to provide children with schooling continuity. For more detail please refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childrens-education-advisory-service>

Officer families are more likely to be in receipt of Continuity of Education allowance¹ (23%) than Other Rank families (7%)

This is because Officer families are more likely to have a child at an independent school than Other Rank families.

Officer families are more mobile than Other Rank families

% families by number of times moved for Service reasons over past five years



27% of Officer families moved home for Service reasons in the last 12 months

This compares to 20% of Other Rank families.

As a result, more Officer spouses feel negative about the number of house moves (45%) than Other Rank spouses (31%).

Officer spouses are also more likely to live separately from their partner during the working week (29%) than Other Rank spouses (22%)

These higher levels of mobility and separation may contribute to Officer spouses feeling more negative about the effect of Service life on their career (64%) than Other Rank spouses (55%).

Section 4 - Armed Forces Covenant, Well-being and Service Life

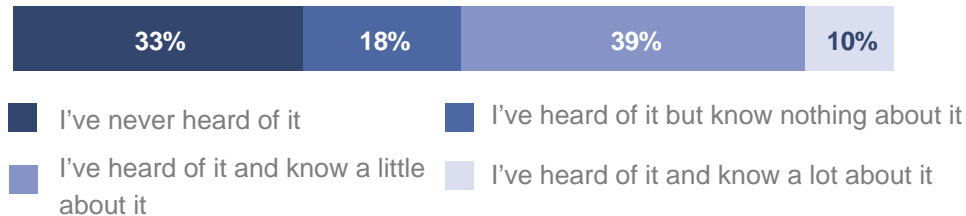
Section 4 covers voting registration as well as a number of questions related to the Armed Forces Covenant. These measure whether families feel advantaged or disadvantaged compared to the general public, and how positive or negative they feel about particular aspects of Service life. This section also includes questions on well-being and satisfaction with Service life.

Armed Forces Covenant¹

Announced by the Government in May 2011, the Armed Forces Covenant 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.

Half of Service spouses know at least a little about the Armed Forces Covenant

Awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant



Although these figures are unchanged since last year, awareness of the Covenant amongst Service spouses has improved since 2015. Officer spouses have a greater awareness of the Covenant compared to Other Rank spouses.

A higher proportion of Army spouses have “never heard of” the Covenant compared to RAF and RN/RM spouses.

AFCAS 2018 comparison

Over two-thirds (69%) of married Service personnel know at least a little about the Covenant, with Officers more likely to have a greater awareness compared to Other Ranks.

¹Source: www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk

²Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/elections/electoralregistration>; www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates

The majority (86%) of Service spouses are registered to vote

Although unchanged since last year, the proportion of spouses registered to vote increased between 2016 and 2017 from 82% to 86%.

National comparison

There was a similar increase in the proportion of UK voters registered to vote between 2016 and 2017 following the announcement of the EU Referendum and General Election.

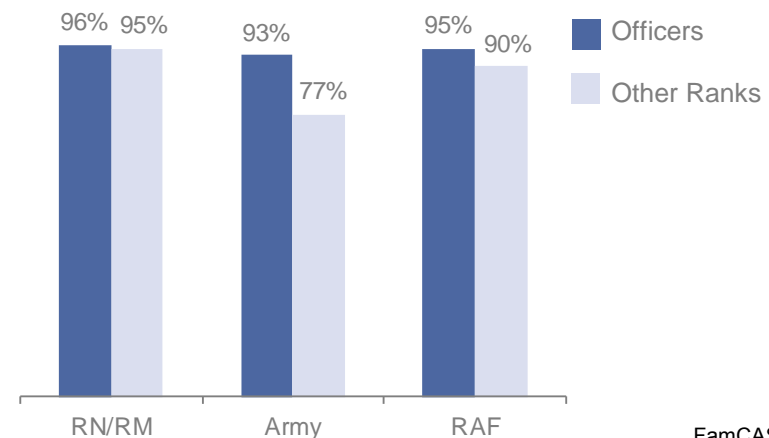
Based on figures published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)², the proportion of Service spouses registered to vote is broadly in line with the proportion of UK registered voters.

AFCAS 2018 comparison

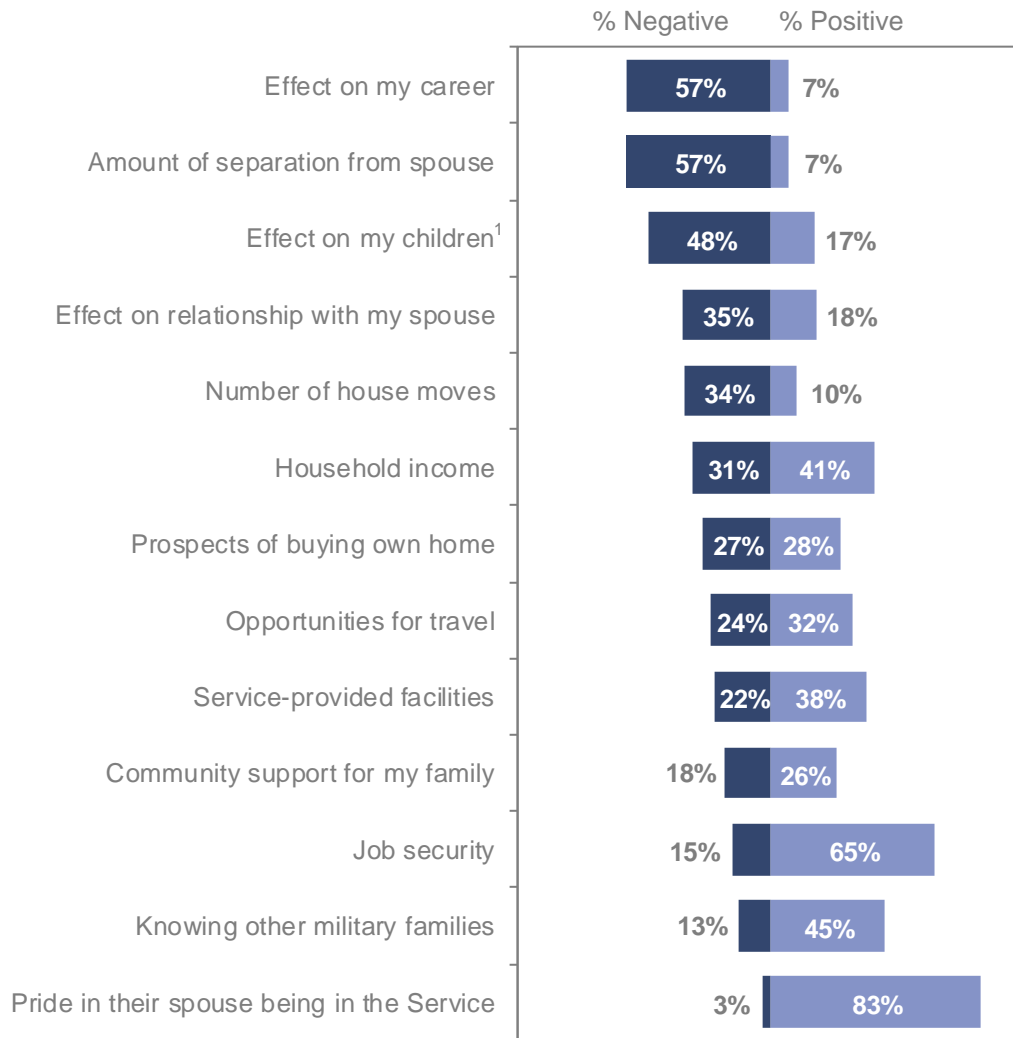
A similar proportion of married Service personnel are registered to vote (90%).

Officer spouses are more likely to be registered to vote than Other Rank spouses

% spouses registered to vote



Positive and negative aspects of Service life



Data Quality Note

'Neither positive nor negative' and 'Not applicable' responses have been excluded from the comparisons above.

¹SUBSET: Families with children (78%)

²Source: www.gov.uk/guidance/forces-help-to-buy

More spouses feel negative about the amount of separation and effect on their career than any other aspects of Service life (57%)

% spouses feel negative about...

- Effect on my career ↑ Four percentage points to 57%*
- Effect on my children¹ ↑ Four percentage points to 48%*
- Service-provided facilities ↑ Five percentage points to 22%*
- Number of house moves ↓ Three percentage points to 34%*

*Changes since 2015

Pride continues to be the aspect of Service life that families feel most positive about (83%)

% spouses feel positive about...

- Prospects of buying their own home ↑ Three percentage points to 28%*
- Community support for my family ↑ Six percentage points to 26%*
- Job security ↑ Nine percentage points to 65%*

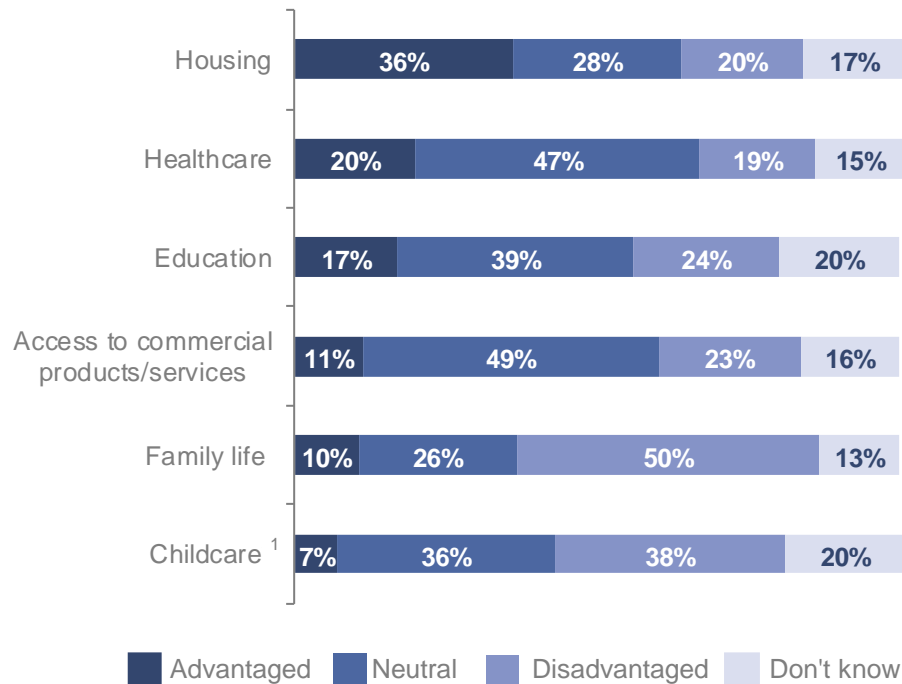
*Changes since 2015

Increases in those feeling positive about job security since 2015 are driven by RAF and Army families.

In April 2014, the MOD introduced the Forces Help to Buy (FHTB) scheme² under the New Employment Model programme. The scheme offers advances of salary to Service personnel for the purpose of buying a home. This may have impacted the positivity towards the prospects of buying their own home.

Half of Service families feel disadvantaged about family life; just one in ten feel advantaged

% feel advantaged/disadvantaged compared to the general public



RN/RM families are more likely to feel disadvantaged about family life (58%), followed by Army (51%) and RAF families (41%).

Of those families with children, just under four in ten (38%) feel disadvantaged about childcare; less than one in ten feel advantaged.

AFCAS 2018 comparison

A similar proportion of married Service personnel feel advantaged about family life (12%) and housing (30%) when comparing themselves to the general public on these issues.

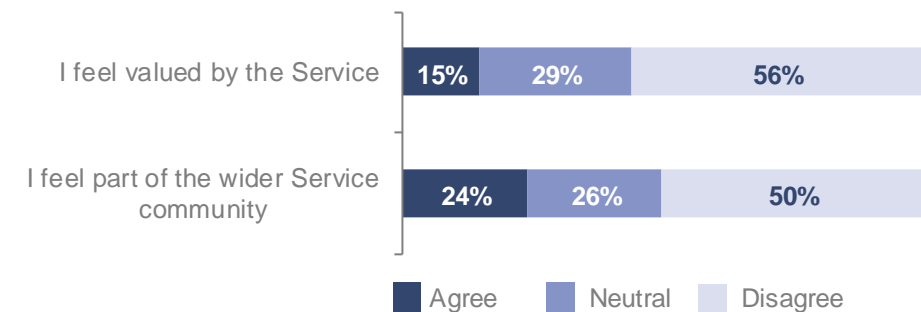
¹SUBSET: Families with children (78%).

Six in ten spouses are satisfied with their quality of life, being married to a member of the Armed Forces

Whilst most families are satisfied with their quality of life, half feel disadvantaged about their family life compared to the general public.

Families living outside the UK are more satisfied with their quality of life (72%) compared to those living in England (60%), and are generally more positive about aspects of Service life including the effect on their children, their relationship with their spouse and Service-provided facilities.

At least half of families do not feel valued by the Service community, or feel part of the wider Service community, both unchanged since 2017



Over a third (35%) of Service spouses state they would be happier if their spouse chose to leave the Service; 30% would feel no different and a further 16% would feel less happy



RN/RM spouses are more likely to feel happier (45%) if their partner left the Service in comparison to RAF (38%) and Army spouses (29%).

Measuring well-being

The Office for National Statistics collects data on well-being for the general population in their Annual Population Survey. Average scores are released in their Measuring National Well-being report¹.

Average well-being scores of Service spouses:

How satisfied are you with your life nowadays?

6.6 out of 10

Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?

6.9 out of 10

Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?

6.5 out of 10

Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?

3.6 out of 10

0 = Not at all, 10=Completely

National comparison

The demographic make-up of spouses of the Armed Forces is different to the general population, therefore spouses' well-being scores are not directly comparable to the general population. However, average national well-being scores provide some context to these findings. For UK females², average national well-being scores range between 7.5 and 8; the average anxiety score is 3. For female Service spouses, the average well-being scores range between 6.5 and 7; the average anxiety score is 3.6.

Note: an anxiety score of 0 is equal to not feeling anxious, a score of 10 is equal to feeling completely anxious.

Well-being scores differ by attributes, such as employment status

Average life satisfaction rating out of 10



Overall, spouses who are employed, live in their own home during the working week or are married to an Officer, are more positive across the four well-being measures. Furthermore, homeowners are more positive than non-homeowners on three of the four well-being measures,

However, there are overlaps between these groups, for example Officer spouses are more likely to be homeowners and so the differences observed may be due to other reasons.

AFCAS 2018 comparison

Married Service personnel tend to score their happiness yesterday, life satisfaction and the things they do in life being worthwhile lower in comparison to their spouses.

¹ Source: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing

² Source: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/personalwellbeingandprotectedcharacteristics

Section 5 - Childcare and Children's Education

Section 5 focuses on families with children, particularly their ability to access childcare and satisfaction with local childcare facilities. This section also covers the difficulties families experience in relation to their children's schooling.

Nearly eight in ten (78%) Service families have children

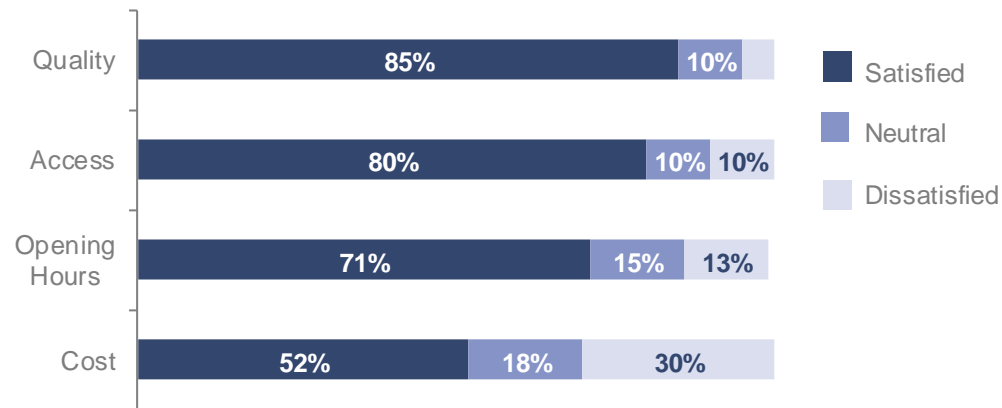
Over a third (36%) of families with children required early years (0-4) childcare

Of those who need it, nine in ten are able to access early years childcare¹



The majority of families are satisfied with the quality, access and opening hours of early years childcare, but less so with cost

% satisfied/dissatisfied with aspects of early years childcare¹



Families are more satisfied with the quality of early years childcare facilities compared to 2017 (from 80% to 85% this year). This is largely driven by Army families.

Officer families are more satisfied with quality and cost in comparison to Other Rank families.

¹SUBSET: Families who needed early years childcare (28%).

²SUBSET: Families who needed childcare for school age children (25%).

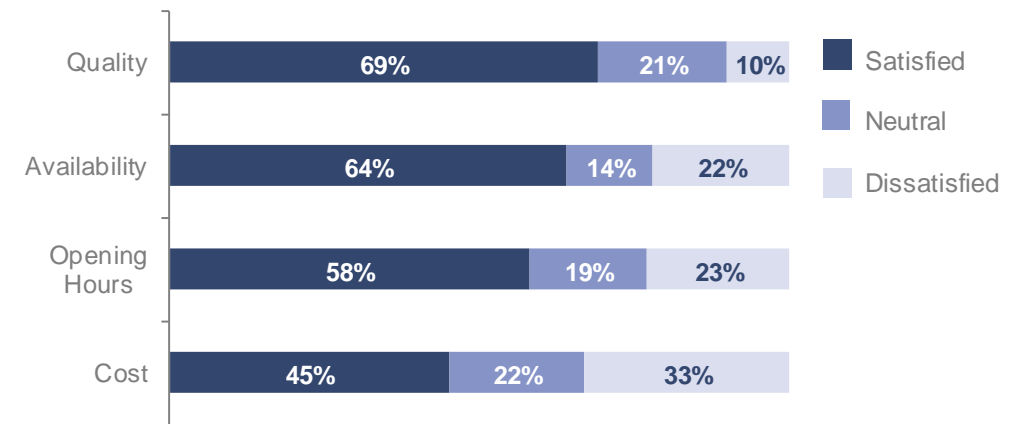
Half (52%) of all families have at least one child of school age

Of these families, half (49%) required childcare e.g. breakfast/after school clubs in the last 12 months

Families are more satisfied with most aspects of early years childcare than childcare for school age children.

A third (33%) of families who required childcare for school age children are dissatisfied with the cost of their local childcare

% satisfied/dissatisfied with aspects of local childcare for school age children²



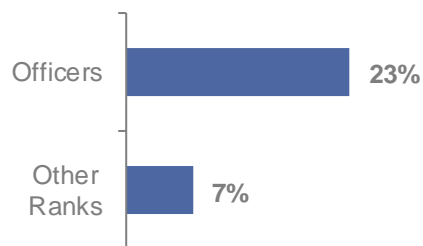
Other Rank families are more dissatisfied with the cost of childcare for school age children (35%) than Officer families (27%).

The majority of families with school age children¹ have at least one child in a state school (80%)

Other Rank families are more likely to have a child at a state school (84%) compared to Officer families (68%).

One in ten (11%) families with school age children¹ receive Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA); Officer families are much more likely to receive CEA than Other Rank families

% families with school age children¹ who receive CEA



The proportion of families receiving CEA has decreased three percentage points since 2015, down from 14%, largely driven by RN/RM families.

Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) is offered by the MOD to provide children with the continuity in their education and enable the spouses of Service personnel to accompany them on postings².

Over a fifth (22%) of families with school age children experienced difficulties with their children's schooling in the last 12 months, unchanged since last year

The most common difficulties experienced by families with school age children¹ are getting a place at the school of their choice (8%) and unsuitable educational standard of their local school (7%).

¹ SUBSET: Families with school age children (52%).

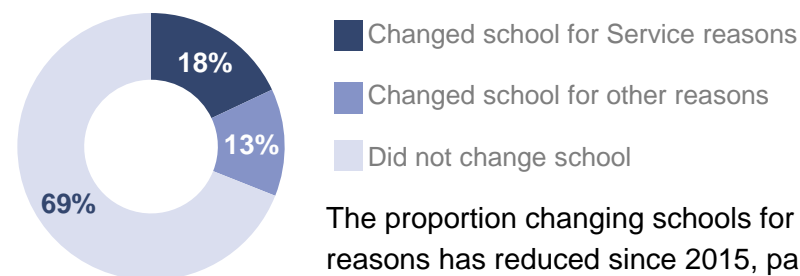
² Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childrens-education-advisory-service>

³ Normal point of entry such as Reception or year 7.

⁴ SUBSET: Families with at least one child at a state school and at least one child who changed school (12%).

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/secondary-and-primary-school-application-and-offers-2018

About three in ten families with school age children had at least one child change schools in the last 12 months



The proportion changing schools for Service reasons has reduced since 2015, particularly for Army Other Rank families.

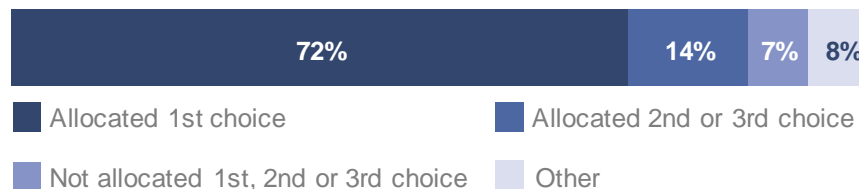
Families who changed schools for Service reasons are more likely to experience difficulties with their children's education (46%) than those who changed schools for other reasons (31%).

Just under half of families who changed schools did so at a normal point of entry³

However, this differs considerably between families who changed schools for Service reasons (32%) and those who changed schools for other reasons (69%).

The majority of families who changed schools⁴ were allocated their first choice of school

School allocation (based only on those with a child at a state school⁴)



National Comparison

Although not directly comparable to Service families, nationally, 82% of secondary school place applicants received an offer of their first choice school. For primary school applicants this was 91%⁵.

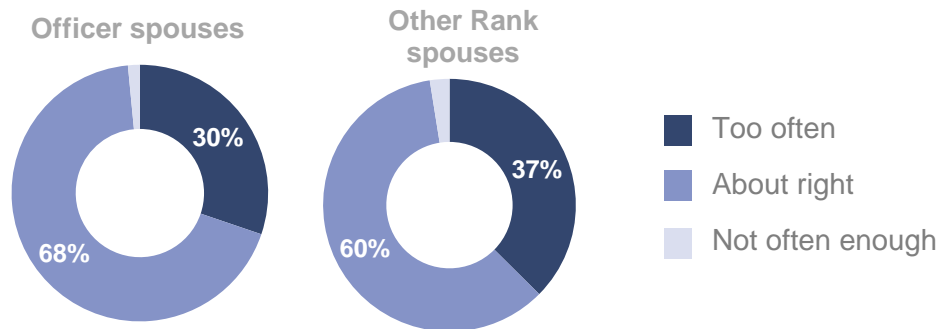
Section 6 - Deployment

Section 6 looks at spouses' views on the length and frequency of operational tours. This section also looks at spouses' experiences of the support and information services available to them before, during and after their spouse's deployments.

In October 2014, UK combat Operations in Afghanistan came to an end and therefore, MOD withdrew the last of its combat troops in Afghanistan. As a result, the number of personnel deployed on operations has reduced. This has led to a decrease in the number of personnel answering the questions applicable to those who have been on deployment in the last two years. For more information please see the MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2014-2015¹.

Just over six in ten spouses² felt that the frequency of operational tours was “about right”

Views on the frequency of operational tours

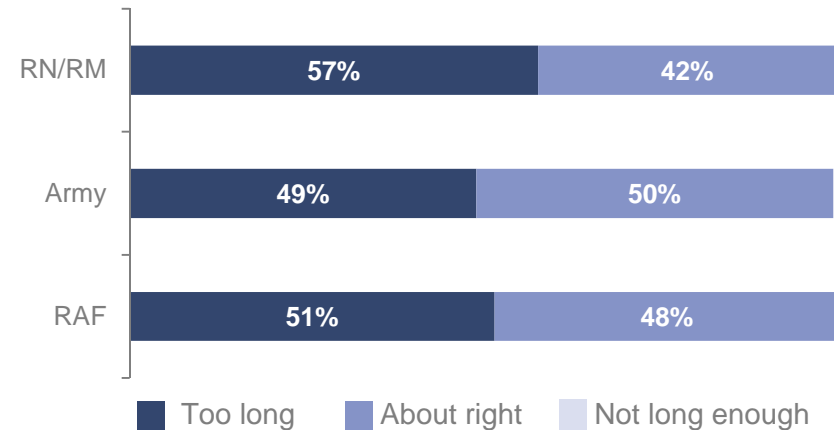


Other Rank spouses are more likely to rate the frequency of operational tours as too often than Officer spouses.

RN/RM spouses' views on the frequency of operational tours improved this year; those rating the frequency as “about right” increased from 55% in 2017 to 61% this year whilst the proportion who felt they were “too often” fell from 44% to 36% over the same time period.

Just over half of spouses² (52%) rated the length of operational tours as “too long”

Views on the length of operational tours



A lower proportion of RN/RM spouses rated operational tour lengths as “about right” than Army or RAF spouses.

However, views of RN/RM spouses on operational tour lengths have improved this year. The proportion rating the length of operational tours as “about right” increased from 35% in 2017 to 42% this year, whilst those who felt operation tours were too long fell from 65% to 57% over the same period.

Over three in ten spouses do not know where to go for Service-provided welfare support whilst their partner is deployed

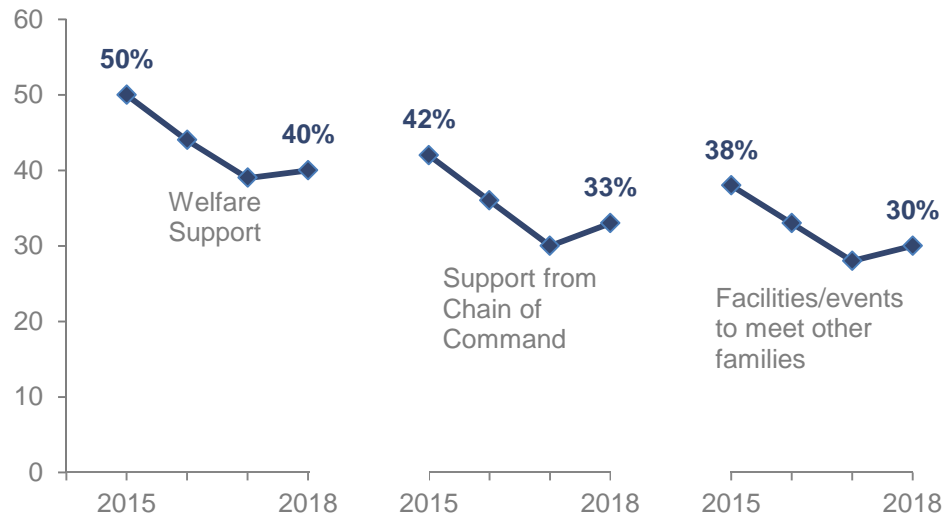
This increases to four in ten for RN/RM spouses.

¹ Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministry-of-defence-annual-report-and-accounts-2014-to-2015>

² SUBSET: Those whose spouse has been deployed within the past two years (38%).

Satisfaction with all types of Service-provided support before deployment has decreased since 2015

% satisfied with support before their spouse's deployment¹



Levels of satisfaction have reduced since 2015 across most types of support before, during and after deployment. However, satisfaction remains unchanged with “lines of communication with your spouse” during deployment (58%).

RN/RM spouses report lower levels of satisfaction with welfare support before deployment (27%) compared to Army (46%) and RAF (43%) spouses¹

This is the case across all time periods, before, during and after deployment. RN/RM spouses are also less satisfied with facilities and events to meet other spouses/families before and during deployment.

Other Rank spouses are less satisfied with direct contact and support from the chain of command/unit than Officer spouses, before and during deployment.

¹ SUBSET: Those whose spouse has been deployed within the past two years (38%).

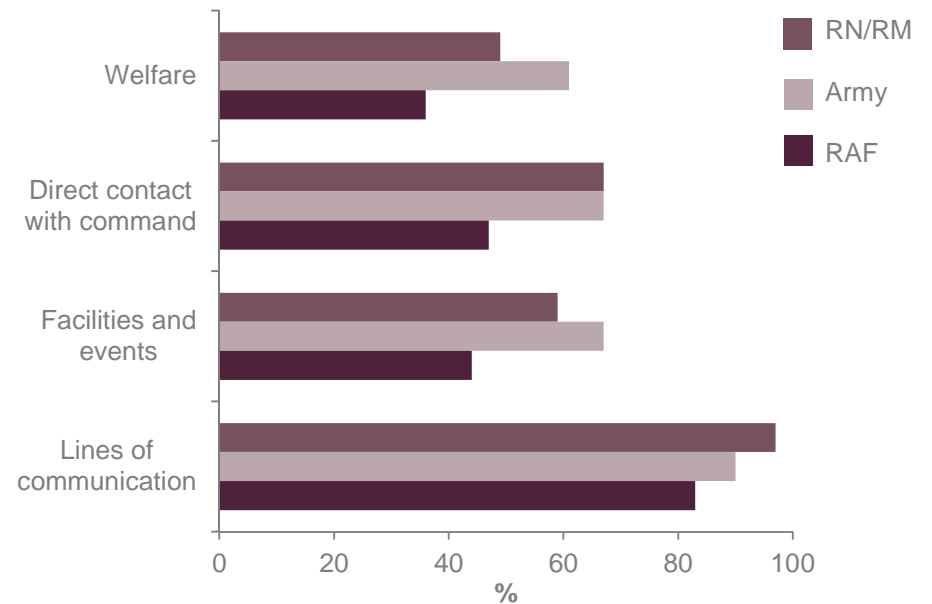
² USE is derived by summing responses with a valid satisfaction level who did NOT tick the “Did not use” response option.

Use of most Service-provided support by families during deployment has fallen since 2016^{1, 2}

In 2016, 57% reported using welfare support during their spouse's operational tours. This has fallen to 50% in 2018. Reductions are reported across most types of support, before, during and after deployment. The only exceptions are “lines of communication with your spouse/partner” during deployment and “facilities and events to meet with other spouses/families” before deployment which remain unchanged.

RAF spouses are less likely to make use of Service-provided support than RN/RM or Army spouses

% families used support during deployment¹



Lower usage amongst RAF families is the case across all time periods; before, during and after deployment. Usage of welfare support is highest amongst Army families.

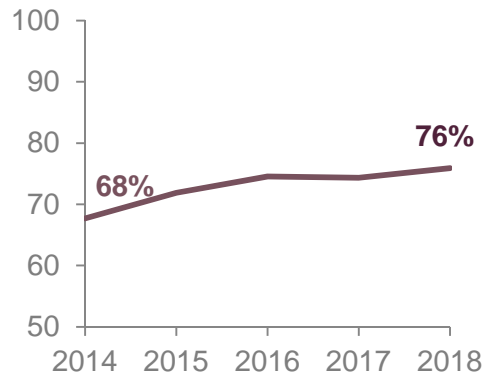
Lines of communication with their spouse is the most used support facility during the spouse's operational tour and welfare support is the least used facility.

Section 7 - Employment

Section 7 provides information on employment status, experiences of looking for a job and job satisfaction. It also covers the experiences of families who accompanied their spouse overseas.

Although there has been no change this year, employment rates remain at the highest levels recorded

% spouses employed



In 2018, 76% of spouses are in employment, an increase of 8 percentage points from 2014.

The proportion of RN/RM spouses in employment increased from 77% in 2017 to 81% this year. This increase was largely driven by RN/RM Other Rank spouses.

National comparison

The employment rate for female Service spouses aged 16-64 was **74%** this year. This compares with a UK employment rate¹ of **71%** for all women aged 16-64.

A lower proportion of Army spouses are employed than RN/RM or RAF spouses

This is likely to be due, at least in part, to the higher proportions of Army spouses moving home or accompanying overseas.

44% Employed full-time



4 PP from 2014

26% Employed part-time



4 PP from 2014

7% Self employed



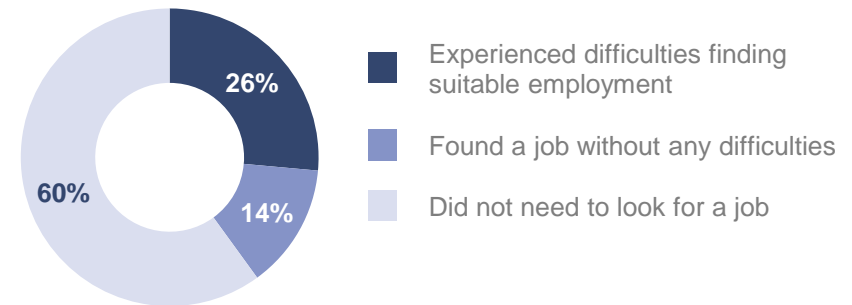
No change from previous years

PP = Percentage Point

Over the past year four in ten spouses looked for a new job



Over the past year just over a quarter of all spouses experienced difficulties finding suitable employment



These results remain largely unchanged since this question was first introduced in 2015. The top reasons cited by those who experienced difficulties were:

49% Having a spouse who is often away²

48% Partner unable to assist with care responsibilities²

47% Extended family live too far away to assist with childcare²

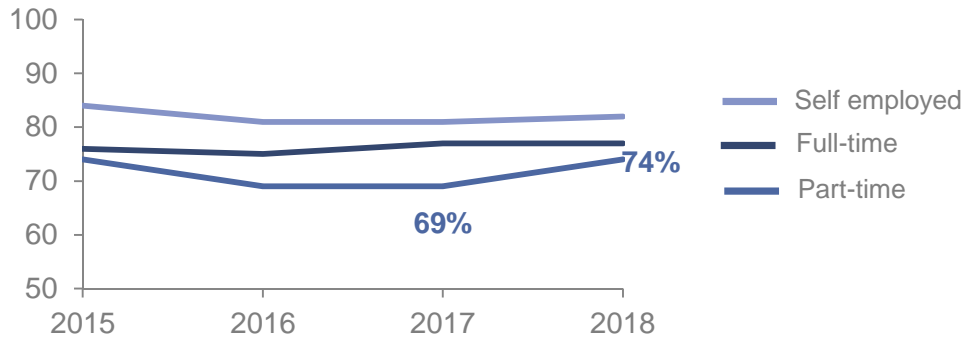
The top reasons differ little by Service or Rank, although Officer spouses ranked "employment history" as highly as those listed above.

¹ Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/june2018>

² SUBSET: Those who experienced difficulties finding suitable employment (26%).

Overall job satisfaction remains high and has increased for those in part-time employment

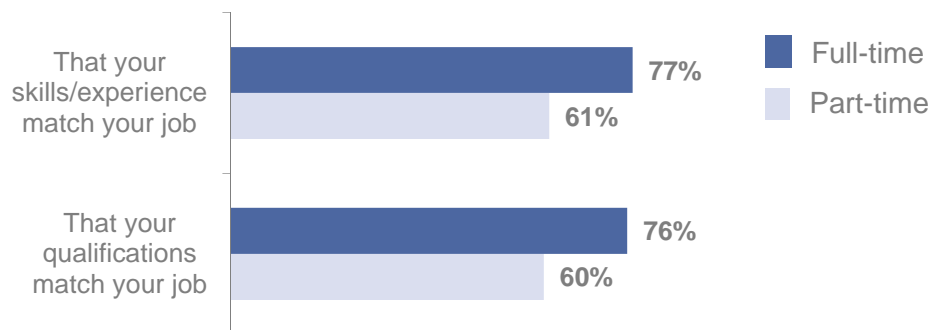
% satisfied with job overall¹



This increase means there are no longer any differences in overall job satisfaction between the three types of employment.

However, those in part-time employment continue to report lower levels of satisfaction with other aspects of their jobs than those in full-time employment

% satisfied¹



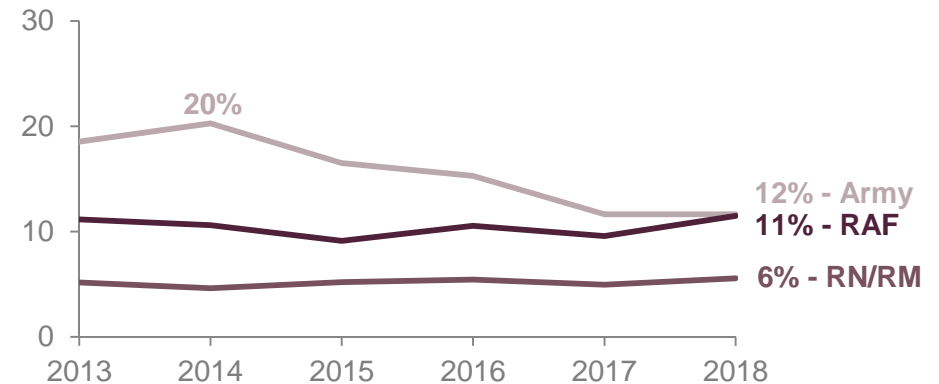
For those spouses in full-time employment, the proportion satisfied that their qualifications matched their job increased by four percentage points this year.

¹ SUBSET :Those in full-time employment (44%), part-time employment (26%) and those self-employed (7%).

² SUBSET :Those who accompanied their partner on an overseas assignment over the past year (10%).

One in ten spouses accompanied their partner on an overseas assignment this year

% accompanied their spouse overseas



The proportion of Army spouses accompanying their partner overseas has fallen from a peak of 20% in 2014 to 12% this year.

RN/RM spouses are less likely to accompany their partner overseas than Army or RAF spouses. This reflects the lower proportion of RN/RM personnel who are posted to overseas locations where it is possible to be accompanied by their spouse.

Of those who did accompany their spouse overseas over the past year²...



These figures remain largely unchanged since 2015 when these questions were first included in the survey.

Section 8 - Healthcare

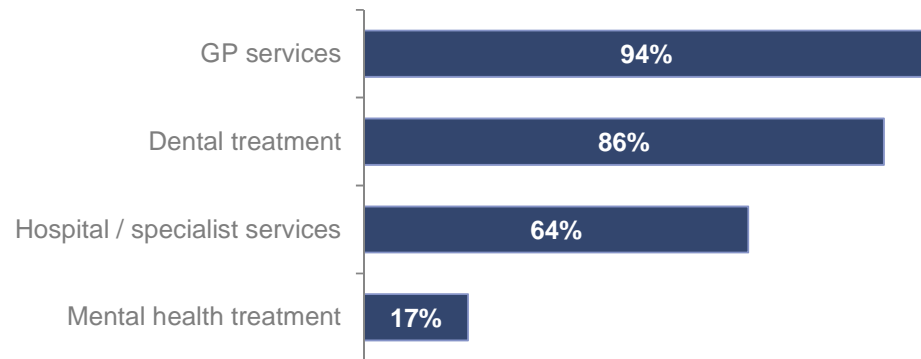
Section 8 looks at access to healthcare services for Service families.

Data Quality Note

The survey aims to measure healthcare provisions for family members not in the Armed Forces. As such, families where both spouses were serving in the Armed Forces and who do not have children, were not asked these questions.

The majority of Service families required access to dental treatment and GP services over the past year; far fewer families required access to mental health treatment

% required access over the past year



The proportion of families seeking mental health treatment has increased from 14% in 2016. Other Rank families are more likely to seek mental health treatment (19%) than Officer families (13%).

Armed Forces Covenant goal¹:

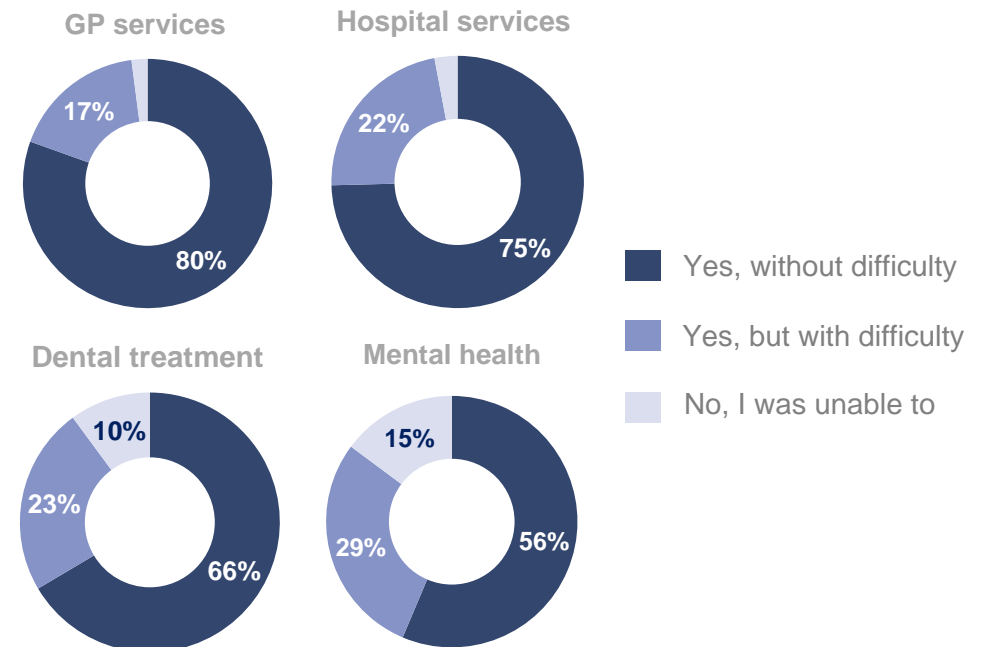
Members of the Armed Forces community should enjoy the same standard of, and access to healthcare as received by any other UK citizen in the area where they live.

¹ Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-covenant-annual-report-2015>

² SUBSET: Those who required each healthcare treatment: GP services (94%), Hospital/specialist services (64%), Dental treatment (86%) and Mental health treatment (17%).

The majority of families were able to access GP and hospital services but those seeking dental or mental health treatment experienced more difficulties

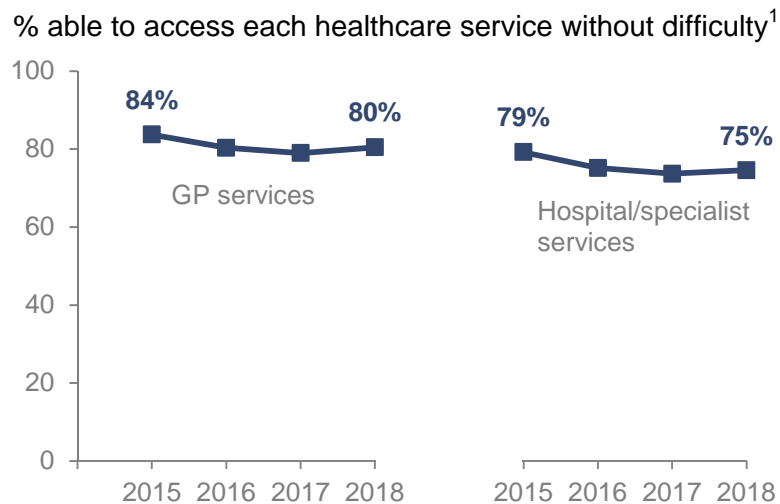
% accessing healthcare services over the past year²



Of the 17% of families who required access to mental health treatment, over four in ten experienced difficulties or were unable to access treatment.

Of those families who required dental treatment, just over two in ten experienced difficulties and a further one in ten were unable to access treatment at all.

Since 2015, there has been a reduction in the proportion of families able to access GP and hospital services without difficulty



This reduction has been driven by RN/RM and Army families; there has been no change in access to GP or hospital services for RAF families.

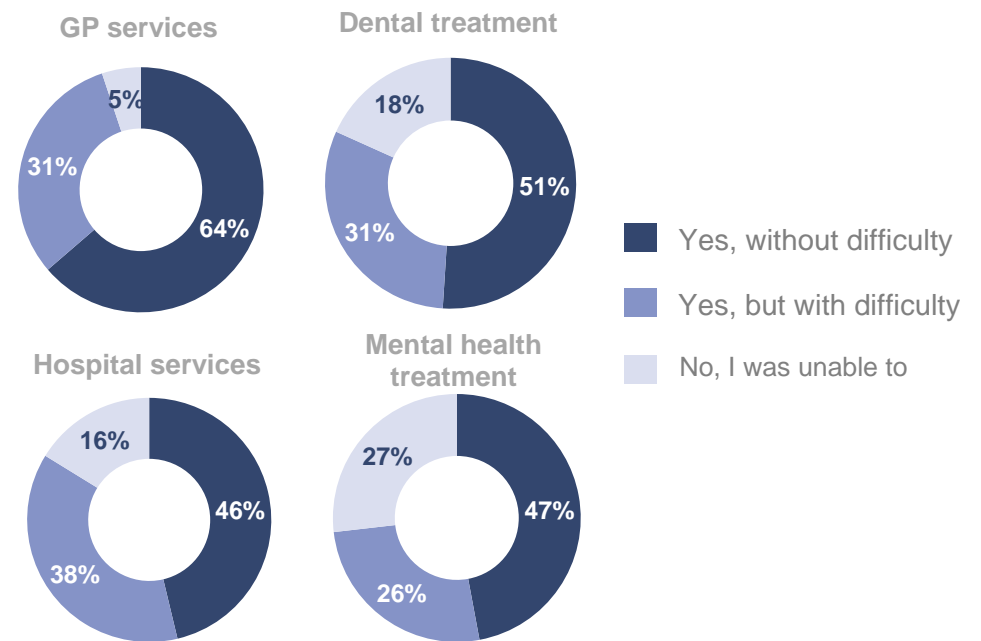
National comparison

Although not directly comparable, the 2017 GP Patient Survey² shows a small decrease in access to GP services; most patients (84.3%) say they were able to get an appointment or speak to someone the last time they tried, this compares with 85.5% in 2015.

A small proportion of families moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatments

These range from 2% of families who moved whilst undergoing mental health treatment to 12% who moved whilst undergoing treatment with their GP.

Of those families who moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatment³, many either experienced difficulties continuing their treatment or were unable to continue their treatment altogether



In 2015, 60% of families who moved whilst undergoing hospital treatment were able to continue treatment without difficulty, this has decreased to the 46% reported here. Similarly, continuing GP treatment without difficulty decreased from 72% to 64% over the same period.

Armed Forces Covenant goal⁴:

Family members should retain their relative position on any NHS waiting list, if moved around the UK due to the Service person being posted.

Of the 7% of families who moved whilst on a waiting list for an operation or consultant appointment, 40% felt their waiting time had increased as a result of moving compared to 28% who felt it had not.

¹ SUBSET: Those who required each healthcare treatment: GP services (94%), Hospital/specialist services (64%).

² Source: GP Patient Survey results: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/2017/07/06/gp-patient-survey-2017/>

³ SUBSET: Those who moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatment: GP services (12%), Dental treatment (7%), Hospital/specialist service (10%) and Mental health treatment (2%).

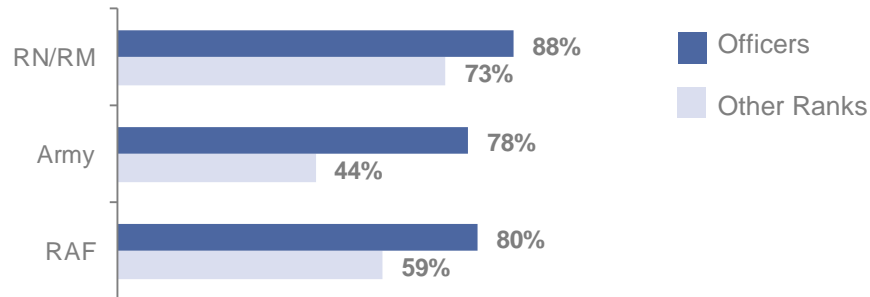
⁴ Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-covenant-annual-report-2015>

Section 9 - Housing

Section 9 covers home ownership, and the reasons for not owning a home. It also looks at the types of accommodation spouses live in during the working week, and how this compares to what they would prefer to live in. It also reports on levels of satisfaction with Service Families Accommodation (SFA) and Substitute Service Families Accommodation (SSFA).

Three in five (60%) Service spouses own their own home; Officer families have a higher rate of home ownership (81%) compared to Other Rank families (53%)

% spouses owning their own home



Two in five spouses do not own a home at the moment

The top reasons for not owning a home¹:

62% Cannot afford to buy a suitable home at the moment

39% Living in SFA is better suited to my family's needs

38% Want to be able to move with my spouse

33% Do not want to buy a home where we are currently located

The ordering of these top four reasons differs between Officer and Other Rank families. Affordability is more of an issue for Other Rank non-homeowners (65%) than Officer non-homeowners (40%). RAF spouses are more likely to state "being able to move with their spouse" as a reason for not owning a home (48%) compared to Army (37%) and RN/RM spouses (24%).

¹ SUBSET: Those families who do not own a home (40%).

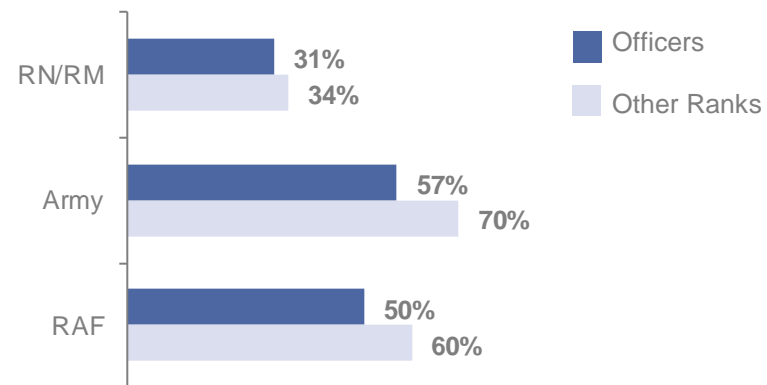
Over a third (36%) of families live in a privately owned home during the working week, an increase of three percentage points since 2016



Around three in five (58%) families live in SFA during the working week, unchanged since 2014

Officer families are less likely to live in SFA (49%) than Other Rank families (61%)

% families living in SFA

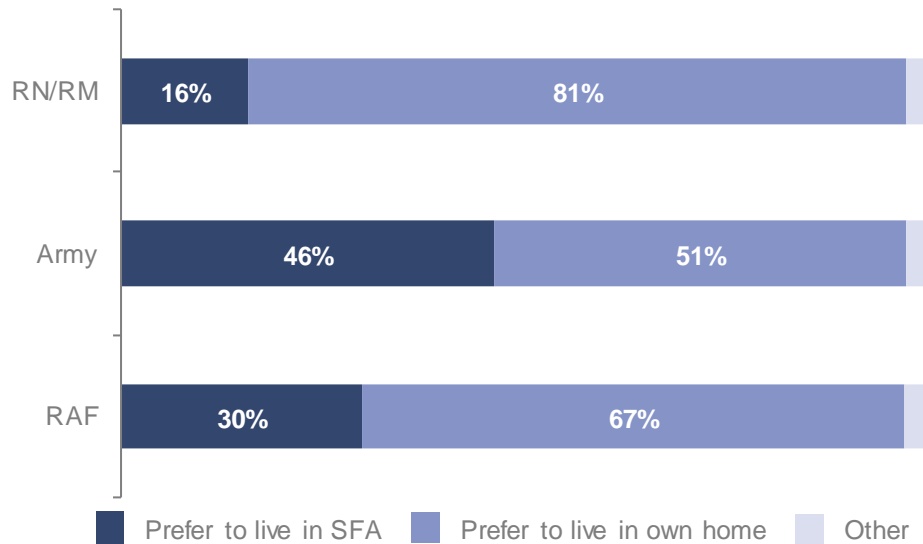


Although Officer families are less likely to live in SFA, they are more likely to live in their own home compared to Other Rank families, consistent with home ownership trends.

Army families are the most likely to live in SFA (67%) followed by RAF families (57%), with RN/RM families least likely to live in SFA (33%).

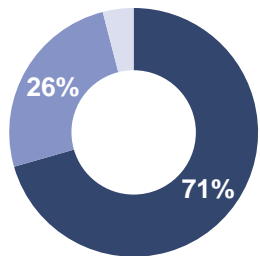
Accommodation preferences during the working week differ by Service

% families by accommodation preference during the working week

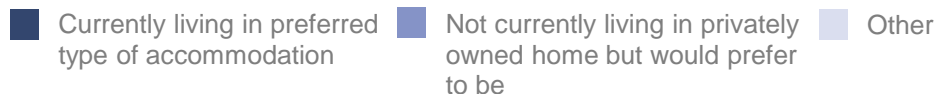


The majority of spouses are living in their preferred type of accommodation

% families by accommodation type and preference

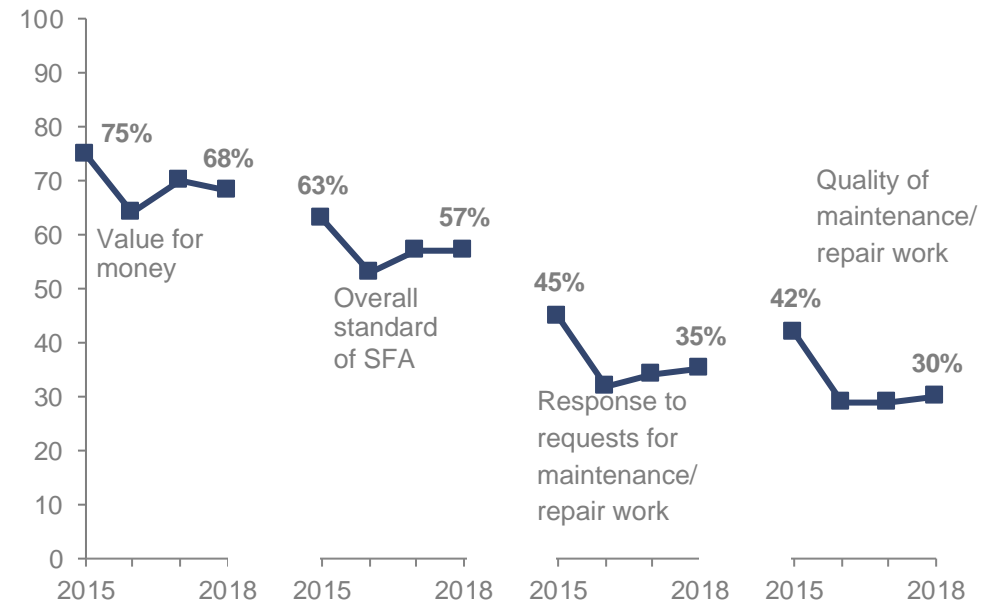


However just over a quarter (26%) of families are not living in a privately owned home but would prefer to be. This is higher for RAF families (31%) than the other two Services. Similarly, the proportion of Other Rank families who are not living in a privately owned home but would prefer to be is higher (27%) than Officer families (21%).



Satisfaction has improved for some aspects of SFA/SSFA since 2016 but many have not returned to the levels seen in 2015

% satisfied with aspects of SFA/SSFA¹



Satisfaction levels relating to maintenance/repair work of SFA/SSFA remain at the low levels first reported in 2016.

Levels of satisfaction are lower for maintenance/repair work than other aspects of SFA/SSFA. For families living in SFA/SSFA, just over a third are satisfied with response to requests for maintenance/repair work; three in ten are satisfied with the quality of maintenance/repair work.

However, almost six in ten are satisfied with the overall standard, security and speed of allocation, and nearly seven in ten families are satisfied with value for money.

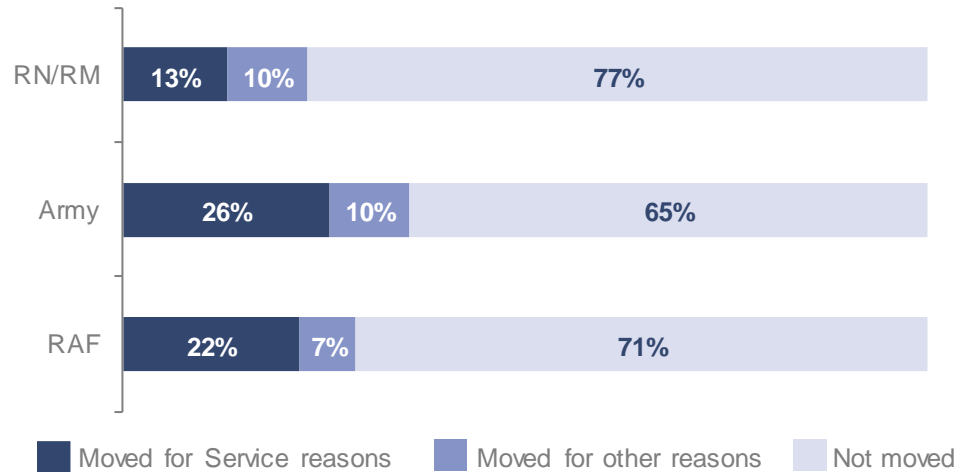
Satisfaction with most aspects of SFA fell markedly in 2016 due in part to underperformance by the National Housing Prime contractor and changes to the SFA charging method in April 2016.

Section 10 - Impact of Mobility

Section 10 looks at the impact of moving location on the spouses and families of Service personnel. It looks again at some of the questions from the previous sections and compares the responses of those who moved for Service reasons with those who have not moved over the last 12 months. In this section, "moved" refers to those who have moved for Service reasons. This section compares the 22% of families who moved for Service reasons with the 69% of families who did not move.

One in five (22%) Service families moved for Service reasons over the past year, a decrease of five percentage points since 2016

% moved/not moved in the last 12 months



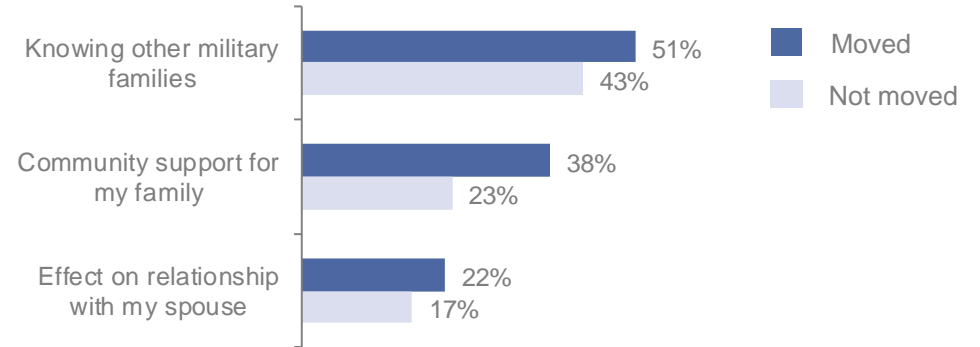
RN/RM families are less likely to move for Service reasons compared to RAF and Army families.

Families who moved are more likely to live with the Serving spouse (87%) than families who did not move (73%)

This is to be expected as those who move for Service reasons are likely to be accompanying their Serving spouse. It may also contribute to the more positive attitude of those who moved towards the effect of Service life on the relationship with their spouse.

Families who moved feel more positive about social aspects of Service life, compared to those who did not move

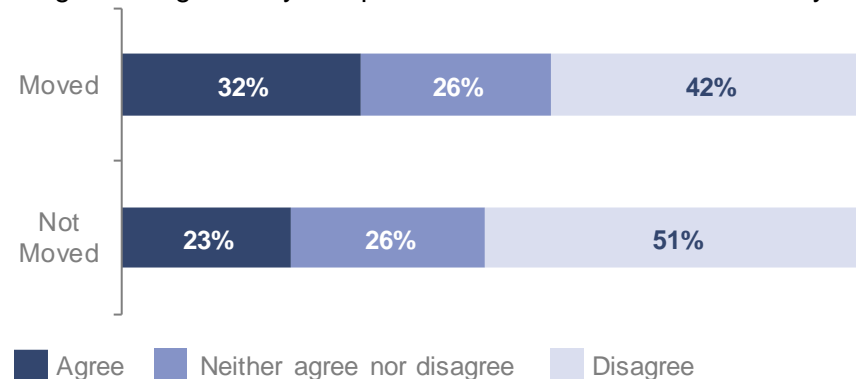
% feeling positive about...



Those who moved are also more positive about opportunities for travel and Service-provided facilities.

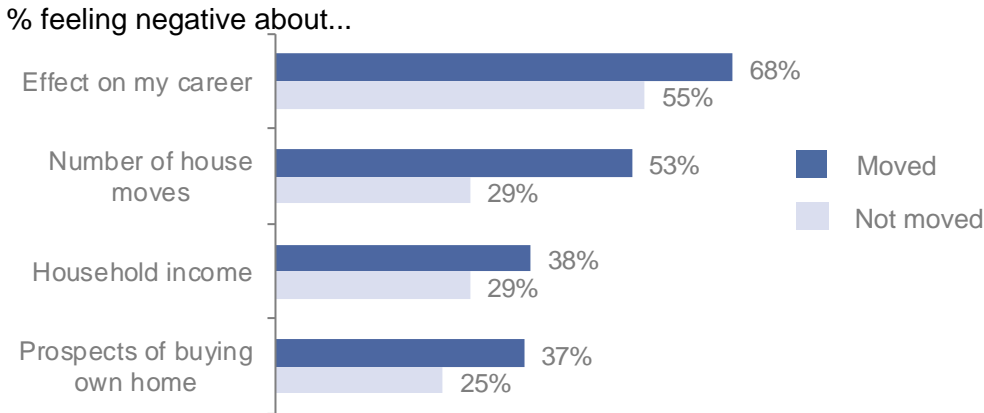
Those who moved are also more likely to feel part of the wider Service community than those who did not move

% agree/disagree they feel part of the wider Service community

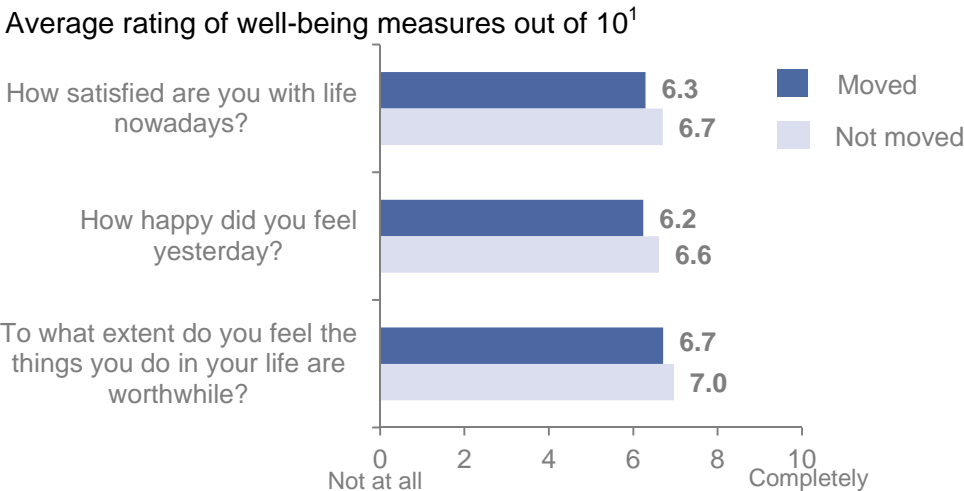


However, mobility can cause a certain degree of upheaval for Service families, for example moving home or finding employment.

Spouses who moved feel more negative about some aspects of Service life....



Those who moved have lower average scores on three of the four well-being measures than those who did not move



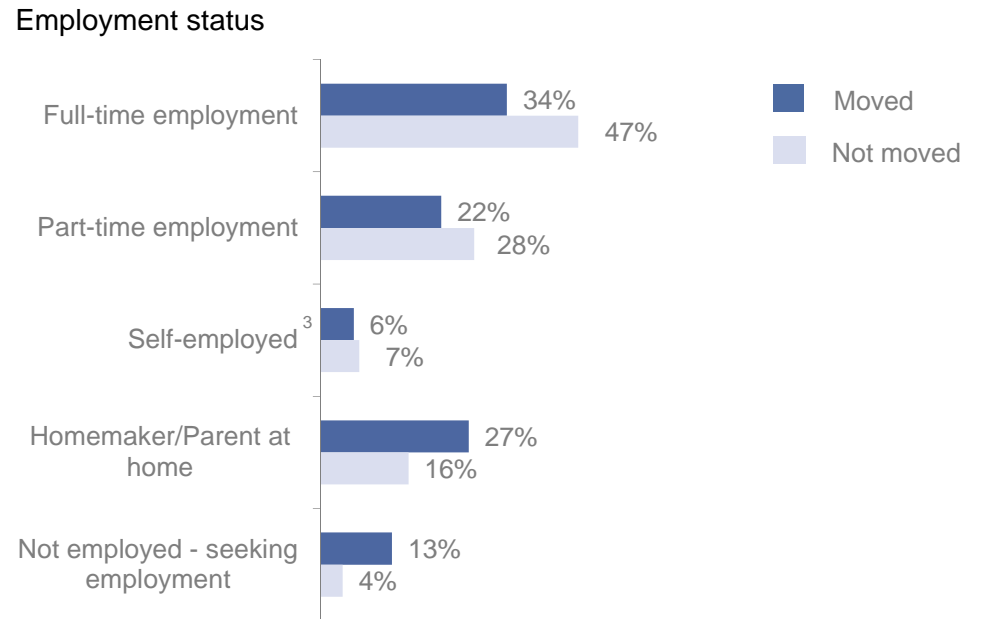
Spouses who moved also feel a little less satisfied with the quality of their life married to a member of the Armed Forces (57%) than those who did not move (62%).

¹ See Section 4 for more details on well-being measures.

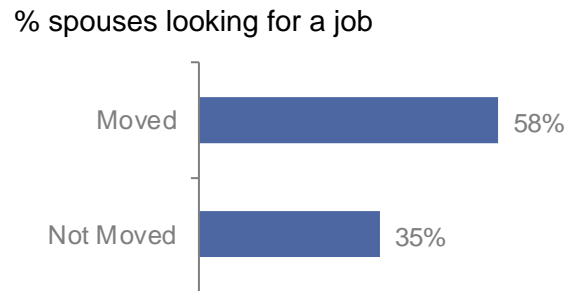
² Employed refers to those in full-time, part-time or self employment.

³ The proportion of spouses who moved and are self-employed is not statistically significantly different to the proportion for those who did not move.

About six in ten spouses who moved are employed² compared to about eight in ten spouses who did not move



Over half of spouses who moved have been looking for a job in the last 12 months, compared to just over a third of those who did not move

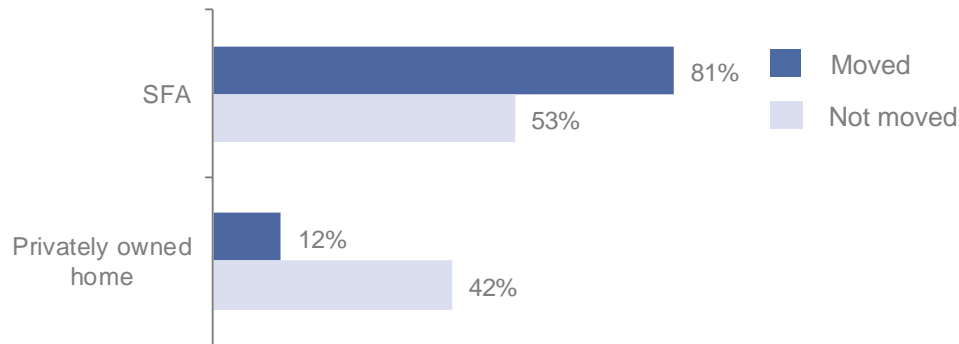


As spouses who moved are less likely to be employed and more likely to have been looking for a job, mobility may be a contributing factor to them feeling more negative about the effect Service life has on their career.

Spouses who moved are less likely to own a home (48%) compared to those who did not move (62%)

The majority of spouses who moved live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) during the working week

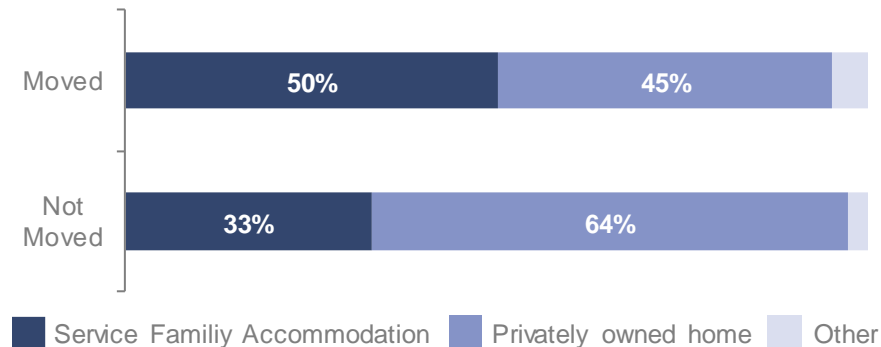
% families by where they live during the working week



Spouses who moved are less likely to live in a privately owned home compared to those who did not move.

About two thirds of those who did not move would prefer to live in their own home; preferences for those who moved are more evenly split between SFA and their own home

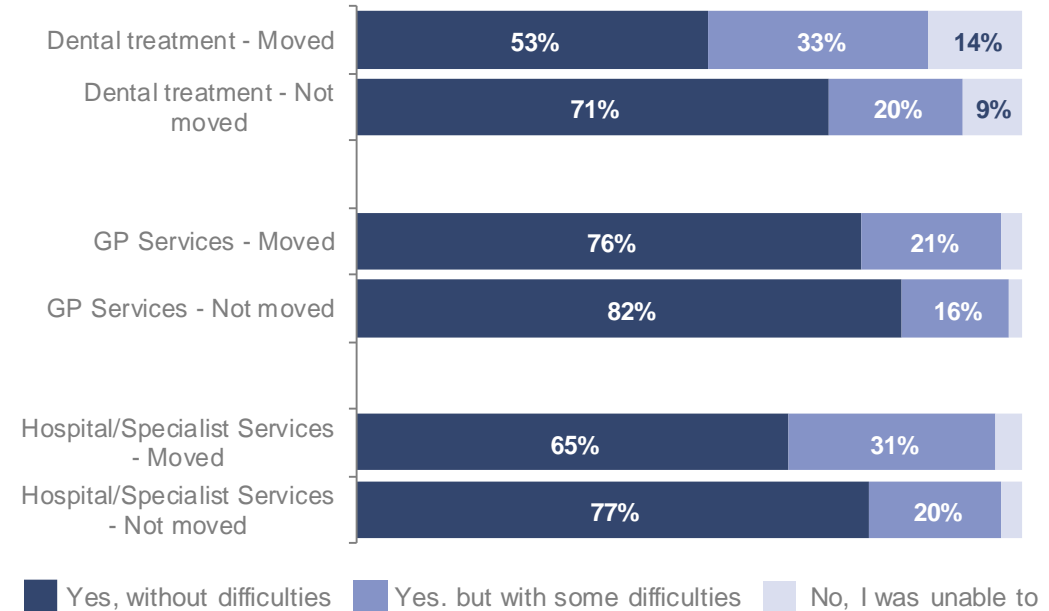
% families by accommodation preference



¹ SUBSET: Those who moved and required mental health treatment (3%).

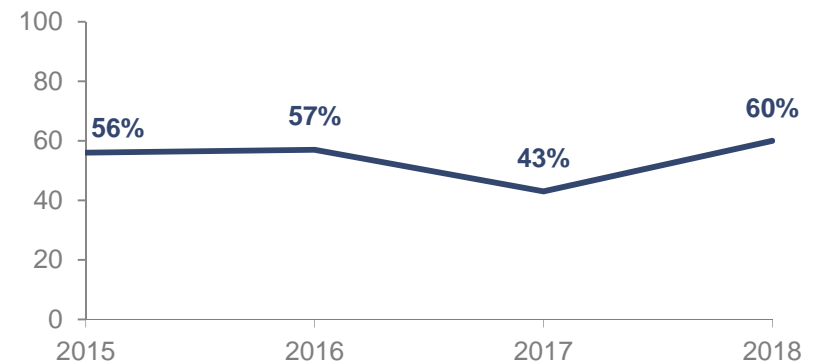
Families who moved are more likely to experience difficulties accessing some healthcare services than those who have not moved

% able to access healthcare services if required



Of those who moved, the proportion who were able to access mental health treatment without difficulty has increased following a drop in 2017

% families accessed mental health treatment without difficulties¹



Overall, the same proportion of families who moved have children compared to those who did not move

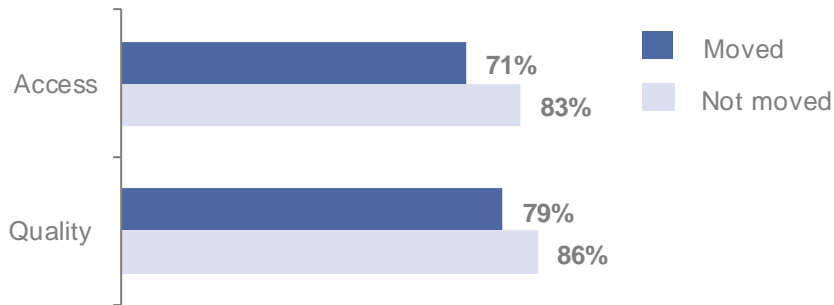
However, RN/RM families who moved are less likely to have children (68%) than RN/RM families who did not move (79%).

Demand for early years childcare (0-4 years) is higher amongst families who moved (41%) than those who did not move (33%)

However, there is no difference in the ability to access early years childcare between those who moved and those who did not move.

Families who moved are less satisfied with the access and quality of early years childcare compared to those who did not move

% satisfied with aspects of early years childcare¹



Similarly, for families who required childcare for school age children, levels of satisfaction with availability, quality and also cost are lower amongst families who moved.

This may be reflected, in part, by the higher proportion of families who moved feeling disadvantaged about childcare (44%), than those who did not move (36%).

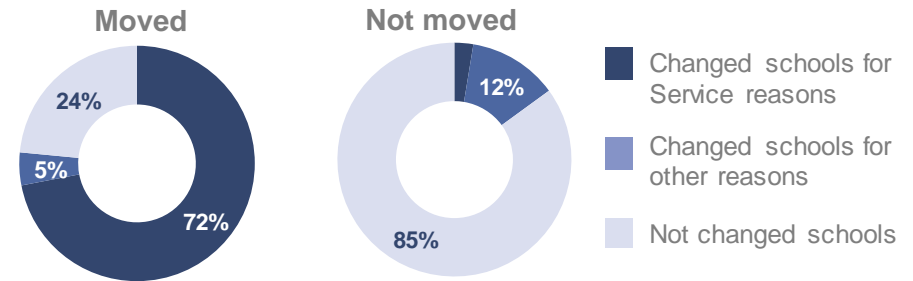
¹ SUBSET: Those who required early years childcare (Moved:7% Not moved:17%).

² Normal point of entry such as reception or Year 7.

Families who moved are less likely to have a child in a state school (67%) than those did not move (83%)

More families who moved have a child in an independent boarding school (19%) than those who did not move (7%). As a result, they are also more likely to be in receipt of Continuity of Education Allowance (23% compared to 9%).

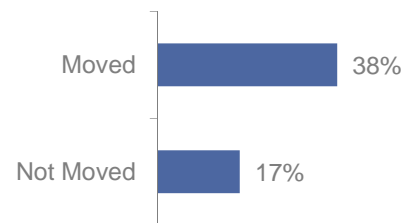
In the last 12 months the majority of families with school age children who moved, changed schools for Service reasons



For families who moved and had a child change school, just over a third (35%) of these school changes were at a normal point of entry². This compares to 71% for families who did not move.

Families who moved are more likely to have experienced difficulties with their children's schooling than those who did not move

% experienced difficulties with their children's schooling



These differences may contribute towards families who moved feeling more disadvantaged about education. However, attitudes towards the effect of Service life on their children are not affected by mobility.

Key questions

The following charts highlight the key questions for each section of the FAMCAS report. The key questions are presented by Service in the charts with an overall Tri-Service figure provided for comparison. Overall differences from last year (2017) and 2015 are presented.

A positive change value represents an increase from a previous time period, a negative value represents a decrease.

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A indicates that no comparable data is available for that year and therefore no significance tests have been carried out.

Key Questions - About you

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2017	% Change from 2015
B1.1	I am female.		92	↔	↔
B1.11	I have children.		78	↔	↔
B3.2	I have a child under the age of 5.		39	↔	-4
B3.15	I have school age children.		52	↔	3
B1.8	I own a home.		60	↔	↔
B1.10	I am employed.		76	↔	4
B1.9	I am a member of the Regular Armed Forces.		9	↔	N/A

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available.

Key Questions - About you: Mobility and separation

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2017	% Change from 2015
B1.7	I moved home for Service reasons over the last 12 months.	<p>Horizontal bar chart showing percentages for RN/RM, Army, and RAF. The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100. RN/RM is approximately 12%, Army is approximately 25%, and RAF is approximately 22%.</p>	22	↔	-5
B1.14	I have not moved home for Service reasons in last 5 years.	<p>Horizontal bar chart showing percentages for RN/RM, Army, and RAF. The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100. RN/RM is approximately 55%, Army is approximately 25%, and RAF is approximately 30%.</p>	32	↔	N/A
B1.14	I have moved home for Service reasons at least twice in the last 5 years.	<p>Horizontal bar chart showing percentages for RN/RM, Army, and RAF. The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100. RN/RM is approximately 28%, Army is approximately 50%, and RAF is approximately 45%.</p>	44	-3	N/A
B1.3	I live with my spouse.	<p>Horizontal bar chart showing percentages for RN/RM, Army, and RAF. The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100. RN/RM is approximately 65%, Army is approximately 80%, and RAF is approximately 85%.</p>	76	↔	↔
B1.6	My spouse has not been away from home.	<p>Horizontal bar chart showing percentages for RN/RM, Army, and RAF. The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100. RN/RM is approximately 10%, Army is approximately 10%, and RAF is approximately 15%.</p>	12	↔	↔
	<i>For Service reasons over the last year</i>				
B1.6	My spouse has been away from home for more than 3 months.	<p>Horizontal bar chart showing percentages for RN/RM, Army, and RAF. The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100. RN/RM is approximately 45%, Army is approximately 30%, and RAF is approximately 25%.</p>	32	↔	-6
	<i>For Service reasons over the last year</i>				
B1.6	My spouse has been away from home for more than 6 months.	<p>Horizontal bar chart showing percentages for RN/RM, Army, and RAF. The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100. RN/RM is approximately 25%, Army is approximately 15%, and RAF is approximately 5%.</p>	14	↔	↔
	<i>For Service reasons over the last year</i>				

Key Questions - Armed Forces Covenant and Service life

Table Ref	Question		Overall %	% Change from 2017	% Change from 2015
B2.3	I have never heard of the Armed Forces Covenant.	<p>Horizontal bar chart showing percentages for RN/RM, Army, and RAF. The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100. RN/RM is approximately 25%, Army is approximately 35%, and RAF is approximately 30%.</p>	33	↔	-8
B2.4	I feel advantaged compared to the general public about housing.	<p>Horizontal bar chart showing percentages for RN/RM, Army, and RAF. The x-axis ranges from 0 to 100. RN/RM is approximately 30%, Army is approximately 35%, and RAF is approximately 35%.</p>	36	↔	↔

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found

N/A No significance tests available

Key Questions - Armed Forces Covenant and Service life cont.

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2017	% Change from 2015
B2.7	I feel disadvantaged compared to the general public about family life.	<p>RN/RM: 50% Army: 50% RAF: 40%</p>	50	↔	N/A
B2.11	I feel negative about the effect on my children.	<p>RN/RM: 48% Army: 48% RAF: 44%</p>	48	↔	4
<i>SUBSET: Families with children (78%).</i>					
B2.12	I feel positive about Service-provided facilities.	<p>RN/RM: 38% Army: 38% RAF: 32%</p>	38	↔	5
B2.18	I feel negative about the amount of separation.	<p>RN/RM: 57% Army: 57% RAF: 53%</p>	57	↔	↔
B2.22	I feel positive about job security.	<p>RN/RM: 65% Army: 65% RAF: 75%</p>	65	↔	9
B2.29	I agree that I feel part of the wider Service community.	<p>RN/RM: 24% Army: 24% RAF: 20%</p>	24	↔	N/A
B2.30	I would be happier if my partner chose to leave the Service.	<p>RN/RM: 35% Army: 35% RAF: 38%</p>	35	↔	N/A

Key Questions - Childcare and children's education

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2017	% Change from 2015
B3.9	I needed early years (0-4) childcare in the last 12 months.	<p>RN/RM: 36% Army: 36% RAF: 34%</p>	36	↔	N/A
<i>SUBSET: Families with children (78%).</i>					
B3.10	I needed early years (0-4) childcare and was able to access it.	<p>RN/RM: 91% Army: 91% RAF: 91%</p>	91	↔	N/A
<i>SUBSET: Families who needed early years childcare (28%).</i>					

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available.

Key Questions - Childcare and children's education cont.

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2017	% Change from 2015
B3.11	I am satisfied with access of local early years (0-4) childcare. <i>SUBSET: Families who needed early years childcare (28%).</i>		80	↔	N/A
B3.16	I have at least one child at a state school. <i>SUBSET: Families with school age children (52%).</i>		80	↔	↔
B3.23	I did not experience difficulties with my children's schooling. <i>SUBSET: Families with school age children (52%).</i>		78	↔	N/A
B3.22	My child changed schools for Service reasons in the last 12 months. <i>SUBSET: Families with school age children (52%).</i>		18	↔	-4
B3.37	I needed childcare for my school age children in the last 12 months. <i>SUBSET: Families with school age children (52%).</i>		49	↔	N/A
B3.39	I am satisfied with the quality of local childcare for school age children. <i>SUBSET: Families who needed childcare for school age children (25%).</i>		69	↔	N/A

Key Questions - Deployment

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2017	% Change from 2015
B4.2	I know where to go for Service-provided welfare support while my spouse is on an operational tour.		62	↔	↔
B4.6	I am satisfied with the welfare support I received during my spouse's most recent operational tour. <i>SUBSET: Spouse deployed within last two years (38%).</i>		41	↔	-8

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available/

Key Questions - Deployment cont.

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2017	% Change from 2015
B4.7	I am satisfied with the direct contact from spouse's Chain of Command during the most recent op tour. <i>SUBSET: Spouse deployed within last two</i>		31	↔	-9
B4.8	I am satisfied with the facilities/events during my spouse's most recent operational tour. <i>SUBSET: Spouse deployed within last two years (38%).</i>		30	↔	-10

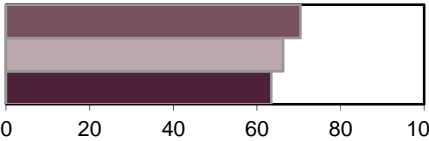
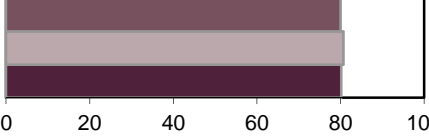
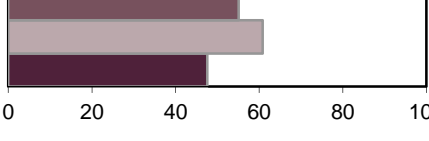
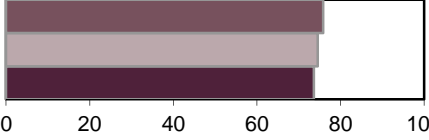
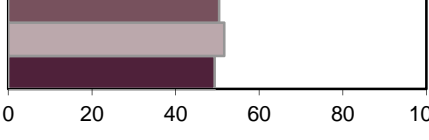
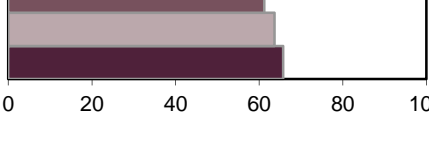
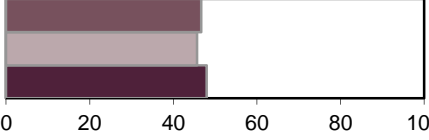

Key Questions - Employment

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2017	% Change from 2015
B5.18	I am employed.		76	↔	4
B5.8	I am in full-time employment.		44	↔	3
B5.19	I have looked for a job in the past year.		40	↔	↔
B5.21	I had difficulties finding suitable employment in the past year.		26	↔	↔
B5.5	I accompanied my spouse on an overseas assignment in past year.		10	↔	-2
B5.3	I was able to access Further or Higher education without difficulty in the past year. <i>SUBSET: Those who needed access to Further or Higher education (30%).</i>		53	↔	N/A
B5.4	I was able to continue an educational course previously started without difficulty in the past year. <i>SUBSET: Those who needed to continue a course (17%).</i>		45	↔	N/A

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available.

Key Questions - Healthcare

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2017	% Change from 2015	
B6.9	I was able to access dental treatment without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		66	↔	↔
<i>SUBSET: Families who required access to dental treatment (86%).</i>						
B6.10	I was able to access GP services without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		80	↔	-3
<i>SUBSET: Families who required access to GP services (94%).</i>						
B6.11	I was able to access mental health treatment without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		56	↔	↔
<i>SUBSET: Families who required access to mental health treatment (17%).</i>						
B6.12	I was able to access hospital/specialist services without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		75	↔	-5
<i>SUBSET: Families who required access to hospital/specialist services (64%).</i>						
B6.21	I was able to continue dental treatment in a new location without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		51	↔	↔
<i>SUBSET: Families who moved while undergoing dental treatment (7%).</i>						
B6.22	I was able to continue GP treatment in a new location without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		64	↔	-8
<i>SUBSET: Families who moved while undergoing GP treatment (12%).</i>						
B6.24	I was able to continue hospital/specialist treatment in a new location without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		46	↔	-14
<i>SUBSET: Families who moved while undergoing hospital/specialist treatment (10%).</i>						
B6.26	Waiting time for an operation/consultant appointment was NOT increased due to my move.	RN/RM Army RAF		28	↔	-10
<i>SUBSET Families who moved whilst on a waiting list for an operation/consultant appointment (7%).</i>						

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available.

Key Questions - Housing

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2017	% Change from 2015
B7.1	I own my own home.	<p>RN/RM: 78% Army: 52% RAF: 65%</p>	60	↔	↔
B7.2	I am currently saving up to buy a home in the future.	<p>RN/RM: 12% Army: 20% RAF: 15%</p>	18	↔	-2
B7.13	I live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) during the working week.	<p>RN/RM: 32% Army: 68% RAF: 58%</p>	58	↔	↔
B7.13	I live in a privately owned home during the working week.	<p>RN/RM: 60% Army: 28% RAF: 38%</p>	36	↔	4
B7.15	I am living in my preferred type of accommodation.	<p>RN/RM: 75% Army: 70% RAF: 65%</p>	71	↔	↔
B7.16	I am satisfied with the overall standard of SFA/SSFA.	<p>RN/RM: 55% Army: 60% RAF: 50%</p>	57	↔	-6
SUBSET: Families who live in SFA/SSFA (60%).					
B7.23	I am satisfied with the speed at which SFA is allocated.	<p>RN/RM: 55% Army: 60% RAF: 55%</p>	58	↔	N/A
SUBSET: Families who live in SFA/SSFA (60%).					
B7.18	I am satisfied with the response to maintenance/repair work.	<p>RN/RM: 30% Army: 38% RAF: 35%</p>	35	↔	-10
SUBSET: Families who live in SFA/SSFA (60%).					
B7.19	I am satisfied with the quality of maintenance/repair work.	<p>RN/RM: 25% Army: 35% RAF: 25%</p>	30	↔	-12
SUBSET: Families who live in SFA/SSFA (60%).					

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available.

Methodology

1. Target Population

The target population for FamCAS 2018 was the spouses/civil partners of all trained UK Regular Armed Forces personnel including Gurkhas but 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 in electronic and paper format. The RN/RM has run an online survey for several years and the Army and RAF introduced an online survey in 2016.

Both the paper questionnaires and e-mail invites to the online questionnaire are sent to Service personnel who are asked to pass them onto their spouse/civil partner. Data collection ran from February 2018 to the end of April 2018, a relatively long period which allows time for Service personnel to pass on the survey to their spouse/civil partner as some may be living separately due to postings/assignments.

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

3. The sample and respondents

The total FamCAS 2018 sample consisted of 27,062 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	5%
RN OR6-9 England	5%
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 2017 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. Despite conducting a census for Royal Navy - OR1-4 and for all Royal Marines the margin of error for these groups are expected to be between 6% and 9%. Margins of error for each question can be found in reference tables published alongside this report here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>

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

5,502 responses were used in the FamCAS 2018 analysis, giving an overall response rate of 20%. 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	2018 response rate	2017 response rate	2016 response rate	2015 response rate
Royal Navy	Officers	2 174	595	27%	36%	38%	35%
	Ratings	5 358	729	14%	20%	22%	21%
	Total	7 532	1 324	18%	24%	27%	25%
Royal Marines	Officers	375	72	19%	27%	29%	29%
	Marines	1 593	184	12%	16%	22%	19%
	Total	1 968	256	13%	18%	23%	20%
Army	Officers	2 130	821	39%	45%	45%	45%
	Soldiers	9 002	1 520	17%	20%	22%	20%
	Total	11 132	2 341	21%	24%	26%	24%
Royal Air Force	Officers	1 367	456	33%	34%	41%	34%
	Airmen	5 063	1 125	22%	28%	32%	23%
	Total	6 430	1 581	25%	30%	34%	26%
All Services	Officers	6 046	1 944	32%	38%	41%	38%
	Ranks	21 016	3 558	17%	22%	24%	21%
	Total	27 062	5 502	20%	25%	28%	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 data and so need to be scaled up more.

Table A3: Weightings used for FamCAS 2018 analysis

Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied
RN_OF1+_NI_Wal	5.25	Army_OF1+_Ger	2.40	RAF_OF1+_Cyp_NonUK	4.53
RN_OF1+_NonUK	3.97	Army_OF1+_NI	4.27	RAF_OF1+_NI_Scot_Wal	5.15
RN_OF1+_Scot	4.73	Army_OF1+_Scot	3.33	RAF_OF1-4_Eng	13.15
RN_OF1-4_Eng	6.30	Army_OF1+_Wal	6.18	RAF_OF5+_Eng	12.74
RN_OF5+_Eng	5.19	Army_OF1-4_Cyp	1.90	RAF_OR1-2_Cyp	8.00
RN_OR1-2_Eng	14.88	Army_OF1-4_Eng	16.16	RAF_OR1-2_Eng	14.28
RN_OR1-4_NonUK	15.00	Army_OF1-4_NonUK	4.09	RAF_OR1-2_Scot	9.25
RN_OR1-4_Scot_Wal	16.00	Army_OF5+_Eng	11.86	RAF_OR1-4_NI_Wal	6.75
RN_OR3-4_Eng	11.56	Army_OF5+_NonUK	3.35	RAF_OR3-4_Cyp	4.91
RN_OR6-9_Eng	8.17	Army_OR1-2_Eng	48.59	RAF_OR3-4_Eng	10.60
RN_OR6-9_NI_Wal	8.00	Army_OR1-4_Cyp	9.35	RAF_OR3-4_NonUK	5.12
RN_OR6-9_NonUK	9.94	Army_OR1-4_Ger	9.92	RAF_OR3-4_Scot	7.71
RN_OR6-9_Scot	8.98	Army_OR1-4_NI	23.54	RAF_OR6-9_Cyp	4.29
RM_OF1+_Eng	6.55	Army_OR1-4_NonUK	16.10	RAF_OR6-9_Eng	11.70
RM_OF1+_Scot_NonUK	5.90	Army_OR1-4_Scot	10.74	RAF_OR6-9_NI_Wal	7.55
RM_OR1-2_Eng	16.06	Army_OR1-4_Wal	17.81	RAF_OR6-9_NonUK	5.63
RM_OR1-9_NI_Scot_Wal_NonUK	11.28	Army_OR3-4_Eng	28.00	RAF_OR6-9_Scot	7.78
RM_OR3-4_Eng	15.41	Army_OR6-9_Cyp	3.88		
RM_OR6-9_Eng	8.68	Army_OR6-9_Eng	26.74		
		Army_OR6-9_Ger	4.20		
		Army_OR6-9_NI	5.58		
		Army_OR6-9_NonUK	4.37		
		Army_OR6-9_Scot	7.74		
		Army_OR6-9_Wal	10.51		

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. For example, questions about children's schooling will be subset to those respondents with school age children. 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.

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.

Section 8 of Annex B provides a subset of tables that compare results of those who moved for Service reasons over the past year against those who did not move. These tables are broken down by Service.

Glossary

AFCAS	The Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey.
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.
CEA	Continuity of education allowance. This is offered by the MOD to provide children with the continuity in their education.
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
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
Service spouse	Within this report this term refers to the spouse or civil partner of a Regular trained member of the Armed Forces.
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', 'SSSA' and 'Onboard a ship or submarine'
Service(s)	Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and RAF
Service spouse	Within this report this term refers to the spouse or civil partner of a Regular trained member of the Armed Forces.
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	Within this report this refers to both spouses and civil partners
SSFA	Substitute Service Family Accommodation
SSSA	Substitute single Service Accommodation. Formerly Substitute Single Living Accommodation (SSLA)
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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