



Ministry  
of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2018/12732**



Date: **05/11/2018**

Dear ,

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 05/04/2018 requesting the following information:

"I am seeking some information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding UK armed forces deployed outside the UK.

Please may I have:

- 1 - A list of each country in which any UK forces are presently deployed/ stationed/ on "training exercises" etc.
- 2 - The number of UK armed personnel in each country, by service (army, navy, RAF).
- 3 - The date(s) of commencement of a UK presence in each country."

Following further communications on 11/10/2018 the request was clarified to be:

"A list of each country in which any UK forces are presently stationed (i.e. the assigned location) and the number of UK armed personnel stationed in each country, by service (army, navy, RAF). "

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that all information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information you requested is exempt under Section 26 of the FOIA. Section 26 (1)(a) has been applied as some of the information you requested is sensitive and releasing it would prejudice both the defence of the UK and the Armed Forces of the Crown. The public interest test concluded that whilst release would increase public understanding and follow the FOIA's general presumption of openness, the balance of the public interest lay in withholding some information. I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to". Where we have excluded countries, we have included them in the total number of personnel stationed in the continent, as we do in the Annual Location Statistics publication which is available <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-uk-regular-service-and-civilian-personnel-annual-statistics-2018>.

Section 22(1)(a) has also been applied as some of the information you requested will be published at a future date. The balance of the public interest test concluded that although release would provide the public with greater transparency and the latest information on UK troops stationed overseas, it would pre-empt both the Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics and the Annual Location Statistics to release information as at 01/10/2018. Because of this, the data is based from 01/04/2018 which is the same date used for the previous Annual Location Statistics publication.

The data we have provided is an estimate of the Overseas Based UK Armed Forces by continent, country and service as at 1 April 2018. The UK Armed Forces includes UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas, Military Provost Guard Service, Locally Engaged Personnel, Volunteer Reserve, Serving Regular Reserve, Sponsored Reserve and Full Time Reserve Service Personnel. University Officer Cadets and Royal Fleet Auxiliary have been excluded. The location data for all populations, other than Regulars, has not been verified and so the quality of that data is unknown, because of this the figures are estimates.

The figures are based on personnel's stationed location. Personnel deployed on operations, exercises and temporary assignments are shown against their permanent stationed location.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <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.gov.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

# Estimate<sup>1</sup> of the UK Armed Forces<sup>2</sup> by Continent, Country<sup>3</sup> and Se

Continent	Country	Navy
<b>EUROPE (exc. UK)</b>		<b>380</b>
	Germany	20
	Cyprus	20
	Belgium	80
	Gibraltar	100
	Italy	50
	Netherlands	40
	Portugal	20
	Norway	20
	France	20
	Czech Republic	~
<b>ASIA (EXC. MIDDLE EAST)</b>		<b>60</b>
	Brunei	10
	British Indian Ocean Territory (inc. Diego Garcia)	40
	Nepal	-
<b>NORTH AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST</b>		<b>160</b>
	Saudi Arabia	20
	Oman	20
	Bahrain	90
	Kuwait	10
<b>SUB SAHARAN AFRICA</b>		<b>60</b>
	Kenya	~
	Sierra Leone	~
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>		<b>320</b>
	United States	310
	Canada	10
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA / CARIBBEAN</b>		<b>~</b>
	Belize	-
<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>		<b>~</b>
<b>SOUTH ATLANTIC</b>		<b>40</b>
	Falkland Islands	40
<b>OCEANIA</b>		<b>20</b>
	Australia	10
<b>UNALLOCATED</b>		<b>30</b>

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1. The figures are recorded as estimates because stationed location data for any population other than Regul
2. All UK Forces Service Personnel comprises UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas, Military Provost Guard Service (MP Personnel (LEP), Volunteer Reserve, Serving Regular Reserve, Sponsored Reserve, and Full Time Reserve Serv Cadets and Royal Fleet Auxiliary are excluded. Includes trained and untrained personnel.
3. The countries we have included are those published in the Annual Location Statistics, where the number o not been disclosed, we have included them in the total for that continent.
4. The figures are based on Service personnel's stationed location and not their location of residence - where necessarily where they live. Personnel deployed on operations, exercises and temporary assignments are shc permanent stationed location.

5. Figures have been rounded as they are estimates. They have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest 20 to prevent systematic bias.

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## Service as at 1 April 2018

Army	RAF
<b>5,380</b>	<b>1,390</b>
3,460	140
1,380	910
120	90
200	30
60	80
30	60
-	~
10	10
20	20
20	~
<b>810</b>	<b>20</b>
740	10
~	~
60	-
<b>250</b>	<b>430</b>
40	80
50	60
~	10
60	10
<b>400</b>	<b>20</b>
270	~
~	~
<b>350</b>	<b>540</b>
100	520
250	20
<b>30</b>	-
20	-
~	~
<b>240</b>	<b>70</b>
240	60
<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>
20	10
<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

ars has not been validated.

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