



Ministry  
of Defence

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Reference: **FOI 2019/06012**

Dear [REDACTED]

Date: **30/05/2019**

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 20/05/2019 requesting the following information:

*“The number of UK regular armed forces personnel as at 1 April 2019 by medical deployability standard (MDS) and service.”*

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 and is in the table below.

**UK Regular Forces<sup>1</sup> by Service and Medical Deployability Standard<sup>2</sup> as at 1 April 2019**

	RN/RM	Army	RAF	Total
Medically fully deployable	27,280	62,010	27,080	116,380
Medically limited deployability	2,110	9,880	2,160	14,140
Medically not deployable	3,130	7,020	3,570	13,720
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,540</b>	<b>79,030</b>	<b>32,860</b>	<b>144,430</b>

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

1. UK Regular Forces includes trained and untrained UK regulars, excludes Gurkhas, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), Volunteer Reserve, Serving Regular Reserve, Sponsored Reserve, and Full Time Reserve Service.
2. Medical Deployability Standard has been compiled using the Defence Statistics “derived” field which utilises a combination of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) and Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) MDS.
3. Please note that the total figure of personnel in service is greater than the sum of MDS categories. This is because the MDS of some personnel was not available.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, figures ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Service personnel with medical conditions or fitness issues which affect their ability to perform their duties are assessed in Primary Care or referred to a Medical Board for a medical examination and review of their medical grading. The patient may be downgraded to allow for treatment and rehabilitation. Medically downgraded personnel are those personnel who have been assessed by a Medical Board or in primary

care and subsequently awarded a Medical Deployability Standard (MDS) of either MLD or MND. The MDS awarded can be on a temporary or permanent basis. The definitions of MDS categories are as follows:

**Medically Fully Deployable (MFD):** Personnel medically fit for duty with no employment limitations.

**Medically Limited Deployable (MLD):** Personnel medically fit for duty with minor employment limitations. MLD personnel may have a medical condition or functional limitation that prevents the meeting of all Medically Fully Deployable (MFD) requirements.

**Medically Not Deployable (MND):** Personnel medically fit for duty with major employment limitations. MND personnel are not fit to deploy on Operations but may be deployable on UK based exercises and should be able to work effectively for at least 32.5 hours per week.

Joint Personnel Administration is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK Armed Forces personnel and is used to gather information on a person's service.

Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) has a centralised data warehouse of coded information. It was rolled out in 2007 and is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change.

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)