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of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of XX August in which you requested the following information:

*I'm making this request to look for a document/map/list showing the recruiting areas of each infantry battalion. I know there is a map by regiment, but I was interested in a battalion level style. An example possible;*

*\* 1 RIFLES - Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Gloucestershire, Berkshire, Wiltshire, County of Bristol, City of Bristol*

*If there are any documents already published I would be happy to see if they are sufficient for what I might need.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held regarding Infantry recruitment. I have included the information below.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that Foot Guards recruit nationally, but Regiments within the Foot Guards have set areas. The Rifles you mention in our question recruit nationally and do not allocate areas to individual Battalions.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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/>.

Yours sincerely,



Manning Team  
**Army Secretariat**

### INFANTRY REGIMENTAL RECRUITING AREAS

1. Candidates are entitled to enlist into any Regt, regardless of geography, if they have a connection with, or are committed to, that Regt.
2. SG and SCOTS may recruit Scotsmen, or those with Scottish antecedents, from the remainder of the UK.
3. IG and R IRISH may recruit Irishmen, or those with Irish antecedents, across the UK Mainland.
4. WG and R WELSH may recruit Welshmen, or those with Welsh antecedents, across the UK mainland.
5. RSTs wishing to actively recruit outside their published recruiting areas must gain approval through HQ Inf (SO2 Inf Rec).

Ser (a)	Regiment (b)	Abbreviation (c)	Regimental Recruiting Areas (d)	Remarks (e)
<b>The Guards</b>				
1	Grenadier Guards  Irish Guards  Scots Guards  Welsh Guards  Coldstream Guards	GREN GDS  IG  SG  WG  COLDM GDS	The Guards are nationally recruited infantry and recruit from all areas of the United Kingdom.	

**The Scottish Welsh & Irish Division (SWI)**

6	The Royal Regiment of Scottish	Scots	The whole of Scotland Remainder of UK - Scotsmen, or those with Scottish antecedents.	
7	The Royal Welsh	R WELSH	Wales Remainder of UK - Welshmen, or those with Welsh antecedents.	
8	The Royal Irish Regiment	R IRISH	Northern Ireland UK Mainland - Irishmen, or those with Irish antecedents	

The Queen's Division				
9	The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	PWRR	<p>Boroughs within Greater London</p> <p>Channel Islands</p> <p>City of Portsmouth</p> <p>City of Southampton</p> <p>East Sussex</p> <p>Hampshire</p> <p>Isle of Wight</p> <p>Kent</p> <p>Surrey</p> <p>West Sussex, Brighton and Hove</p>	<p>1. Boroughs within the boundaries of Greater London are shared with RRF and RIFLES. The RIFLES have strong ties to Winchester and may recruit within city boundaries.</p>
	The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	RRF	<p>Bolton (Bradshaw, Brightmet, Bromley Cross, Farnworth, Harwood, Kearsley and Little Lever only)</p> <p>Boroughs within the boundaries of Greater London</p> <p>Bury</p> <p>City of Birmingham</p> <p>City of Coventry</p> <p>Lancashire County (Bacup, Edenfield, Rawtenstall, Stacksteads, , Stubbins, Waterfoot and Whitworth only)</p> <p>Manchester (Barnes Green, Blackley, Cheetham Hill, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Crumpsall, Heaton Park, Higher Blackley, Hulme, Queens Park and Strangeways only)</p> <p>Newcastle upon Tyne</p> <p>Northumberland</p> <p>North Tyneside</p> <p>Oldham (Chadderton, Crompton, Failsworth, Lees and Oldham only)</p> <p>Rochdale</p> <p>Salford</p> <p>Solihull</p> <p>Trafford (Stretford and Urmston only)</p> <p>Warwickshire</p>	<p>1. In Bolton; Farnworth, Kearsley and Little Lever are shared with the LANCS. Boroughs within the boundaries of Greater London are shared with PWRR and RIFLES. In Oldham; Lees and Oldham are shared with the LANCS.</p>

11	The Royal Anglian Regiment	R ANGLIAN	Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire City of Leicester City of Luton Essex and Boroughs within the boundaries of Greater London which used to constitute part of the old County of Essex. Hertfordshire Leicestershire Lincolnshire Norfolk Northamptonshire Rutland Suffolk NE Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire (Old Districts of Grimbsy, Cleethorpes, Glanford, Scunthorpe only) That part of the District of Boothferry which constituted the former Rural District of the Isle of Axholme.	
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## The King's Division

12	The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	LANCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cheshire: North of the River Mersey and the Manchester Ship Canal.</li><li>• Cumbria</li><li>• Greater Manchester:  Bolton (except Bradshaw, Brightmet, Bromley Cross and Harwood) In Bolton, Farnworth, Little Lever and Kearsley are shared with RRF.  Manchester (Ardwick, Moss Side, part of Openshaw, Withington and Wythenshawe only)  Oldham (Lees, Oldham and Saddleworth only) In Oldham, Lees and Oldham are shared with RRF .  Tameside (Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield and part of Mossley only) Wigan</li><li>• Lancashire: All except Rossendale (Rawtenstall, Whitworth, Bacup, Stacksteads, Waterfoot, Edenfield, Stubbins – allocated to RRF)</li><li>• Merseyside (Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and St Helens).</li><li>• The Isle of Man</li></ul>	<p>1. The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment were formed from the following Regiment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The King's Own Royal Border Regiment</li><li>• The King's Regiment</li><li>• The Queen's Lancashire Regiment</li></ul>
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13	The Yorkshire Regiment	YORKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City of York</li> <li>• The Unitary Authorities of the East Riding of Yorkshire and the City of Kingston-upon-Hull</li> <li>• In West Yorkshire</li> <li>• The Unitary Authority of Leeds</li> <li>• The Unitary Authority of Bradford east of a line to include: Ilkley, Baildon, Allerton, Bradford City, Clayton and Buttershaw.</li> <li>• In North Yorkshire. The districts of Selby and Harrogate.</li> <li>• North Yorkshire (Except City of York, Craven, Harrogate and Selby)</li> <li>• Middlesbrough</li> <li>• Redcar and Cleveland</li> <li>• In West Yorkshire</li> <li>• The Unitary Authority of Bradford west of a line to include Addingham, Bingley, Cottingley, Thornton and Queensbury</li> <li>• Calderdale</li> <li>• Kirklees excluding Batley and Dewsbury</li> <li>• In South Yorkshire</li> <li>• Sheffield</li> <li>• In Rotherham Metropolitan Borough <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Rotherham City including Wath upon Dearne</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In Barnsley Metropolitan Borough <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Dunford, Langsett, Gunthwaite, Inchoirchworth, Penistone, Oxspring, Hunshelf, Cawthorne, High Hoyland, Silkstone and Thurgoland.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Barnsley City, Darton, Dodsworth, Worsborough, Hoyland Nether, Wombwell and Darfield</li> <li>• In North Yorkshire</li> <li>• Craven District and Skipton</li> <li>• In Lancashire</li> <li>• The following towns, villages and areas in the Ribble Valley: Bowland Forest High, Bowland Forest Low, Slaidburn, Easington, Gisburn Forest, Newton, Grindleton, Bolton by Bowland, Rimington, Middop, Sawley, West Bradford, Waddington, Bashall, Eaves and Great Mitton.</li> </ul> <p>The following towns, villages and areas in the Pendle Region: Bracewell, Brogden, Barnoldswick, Slaterforth and Earby.</p>	<p>1. The Yorkshire Regiment were formed from the following Regiment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Prince of Wales' Own Yorkshire Regiment</li> <li>• The Green Howards</li> <li>• The Duke of Wellington's Regiment</li> </ul> <p>2. Leeds, Barnsley City, Darton, Dodsworth, Worsborough, Hoyland Nether, Wombwell and Darfield are shared with the RIFLES.</p>
14	The Mercian Regiment	MERCIAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheshire</li> <li>• South of the Rs MERSEY &amp; TAME formerly Greater Manchester within the old county boundaries of Cheshire, but excluding that part of Cheshire (formerly Lancashire) North of the Manchester Ship Canal between Runcorn and</li> </ul>	<p>1. The Mercian Regiment were formed by the following Regiments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cheshire Regiment</li> </ul>



			<p>Warburton)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wirral</li><li>• City of Derby</li><li>• Derbyshire</li><li>• Metropolitan Borough of Dudley – that part which was formerly in Worcestershire plus access to Merry Hill.</li><li>• Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell (Oldbury only)</li><li>• Nottinghamshire</li><li>• Worcestershire</li><li>• City of Stoke-on-Trent</li><li>• Metropolitan Borough of Dudley – that part which was formerly in Staffordshire plus access to Dudley Old Town.</li><li>• Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell (excluding Oldbury)</li><li>• Staffordshire</li><li>• Walsall</li><li>• Wolverhampton</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment</li><li>• The Staffordshire Regiment</li></ul>
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## The Rifles

15	The Rifles	RIFLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devonshire</li> <li>• Dorset</li> <li>• Poole and Bournemouth</li> <li>• Berkshire</li> <li>• City of Bristol</li> <li>• Gloucestershire</li> <li>• Oxfordshire (That part of the county which used to form part of Berkshire and bounded by Abingdon, Faringdon and Wallingford only)</li> <li>• South Gloucestershire</li> <li>• Thamesdown</li> <li>• Wiltshire</li> <li>• Bath and NE Somerset</li> <li>• Cornwall</li> <li>• Durham</li> <li>• Gateshead</li> <li>• Hartlepool</li> <li>• Herefordshire</li> <li>• Isles of Scilly</li> <li>• NW Somerset</li> <li>• Shropshire</li> <li>• Somerset</li> <li>• South Tyneside</li> <li>• Stockton-on-Tees</li> <li>• Sunderland</li> <li>• Certain areas of Barnsley, Calderdale, Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire, Kirklees, Leeds, North Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Rotherham, Sheffield and Wakefield (within the following circle: Leeds, Barwick-in-Elmet, Aberford, Towton, Church Fenton, Biggin, Selby, Barlow, Long Drax, Drax, Hook, Goole, Swinefleet, Reedness, Whitgift, Ousefleet, Adlingfleet, Fockerby, Garthorp, Hatfield, Blaxton, Rossington, New Rossington, Tickhil, Letwel, Gildingwells, Woodsetts, Thorpe, Salvin, Harthill, Kiveton Park, Wales, Thurcroft, Wickersley, Bramley, Thrybergh, Rawmarsh, Elsecar, Jump, Wombwell, Hoyland Nether, Worsbrough, Barnsley, Dodworth, Darton, West Bretton, Emley, Flockton, Grange Moor, Upper Hopton, Roberttown, Buttershaw, Driglington, Leeds)</li> <li>• Boroughs within the boundaries of Greater London</li> </ul>	<p>1. The Rifles were formed from the following Regiments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment</li> <li>• The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment</li> <li>• The Light Infantry</li> <li>• The Royal Green Jackets</li> </ul> <p>2. Leeds, Barnsley City, Darton, Dodsworth, Worsborough, Hoyland Nether, Wombwell and Darfield are shared with the YORKS.</p> <p>3. Boroughs within the boundaries of Greater London are shared with PWRR and RRF. In addition RIFLES has close ties with, and can recruit from, Mansfield, Winchester (within city boundaries), Birmingham, Coventry, and Merseyside (Liverpool, Wirral).</p>
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<b>The Parachute Regiment</b>				
16	The Parachute Regiment	PARA	The Parachute Regiment has no territorial areas similar to those of the rest of the Infantry and may recruit from all areas of the United Kingdom.	