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Reference: **FOI2020/08761**

Date: **16/9/20**

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 requesting the following information:

- “1. Can I please have a year by year breakdown of the total number of people serving across the Army, Navy, Air Force and (if possible) Royal Marines? This would be for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019? This includes reservists.**
- 2. Can I please have a year by year breakdown of the total number of BAME people serving across the Army, Navy, Air Force and (if possible) Royal Marines? This would be for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019? This includes reservists.**
- 3. Can I please have a year by year breakdown breakdown of the number of people serving with the ranks of Major or its equivalent across the Army, Navy, Air Force and (if possible) Royal Marines? This would be for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019? This includes reservists.**
- 4. Can I please have a five year breakdown - to the number and not rounded up to the nearest 10 - of the number of BAME people serving with the ranks of Major or its equivalent across the Army, Navy, Air Force and (if possible) Royal Marines? This would be for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019? This includes reservists.”**

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 some information in scope of your request is held. This available data is contained in the Biannual Diversity Statistics Publication, and the Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics, the latest versions can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2020>.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-service-personnel-statistics-2020>.

In line with statistical disclosure control policy, the suppression and rounding methodology has been applied to ensure individuals are not inadvertently identified dependent on the risk of disclosure. The MOD Disclosure Control and Rounding policy is published on GOV.UK at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-statistics-policies>

For part one of your request, the data is held and is contained in Table 1. The Regular personnel data is available in Table 1 of the Biannual Diversity Statistics and the FR20 personnel data is available in Table 16 of the Biannual Diversity Statistics.

For part two of your request, the data is held and is contained in Table 2. The Regular personnel data is available in Table 2 of the Biannual Diversity Statistics and the FR20 personnel data is available in Table 16 of the Biannual Diversity Statistics.

For part three of your request, the data is held and is contained in Table 3. The Regular personnel data is available in Table 2a of the Biannual Diversity Statistics, and the FR20 personnel is available in Table 11c of the Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics.

For part four of your request, the data is held and is contained in Table 4. The Regular personnel data is available in Table 2a of the Biannual Diversity Statistics.

Table 1: Strengths of personnel serving in the Regular and FR20 services, as at April 2015-2019, by service.

	<b>1 Apr 15</b>	<b>1 Apr 16</b>	<b>1 Apr 17</b>	<b>1 Apr 18</b>	<b>1 Apr 19</b>
<b>All Regular Services</b>	153 720	151 000	149 370	146 560	144 430
Royal Navy/Royal Marines	32 740	32 500	32 540	32 480	32 540
Royal Navy	25 080	24 970	25 220	25 480	25 700
Royal Marines	7 660	7 530	7 330	7 010	6 830
Army	87 060	85 040	83 560	81 120	79 030
Royal Air Force	33 930	33 460	33 260	32 960	32 860

	<b>1 Apr 15</b>	<b>1 Apr 16</b>	<b>1 Apr 17</b>	<b>1 Apr 18</b>	<b>1 Apr 19</b>
<b>All FR20 Services</b>	30 810	34 760	36 220	36 260	36 400
Maritime Reserve	3 160	3 540	3 560	3 600	3 850
Army Reserve	25 440	28 670	29 940	29 710	29 470
Royal Air Force Reserves	2 220	2 540	2 730	2 950	3 080

Table 2: Strengths of BAME personnel, serving in the Regular and FR20 services, as at April 2015-2019, by service.

	<b>1 Apr 15</b>	<b>1 Apr 16</b>	<b>1 Apr 17</b>	<b>1 Apr 18</b>	<b>1 Apr 19</b>
<b>All Regular Services</b>	10 680	10 490	10 680	10 970	11 180
Royal Navy/Royal Marines	1 140	1 110	1 130	1 230	1 320
Army	8 840	8 660	8 820	8 990	9 030
Royal Air Force	690	720	720	750	830

	<b>1 Apr 15</b>	<b>1 Apr 16</b>	<b>1 Apr 17</b>	<b>1 Apr 18</b>	<b>1 Apr 19</b>
<b>All FR20 Services</b>	1 490	1 790	1 940	1 970	1 990
Maritime Reserve	90	100	100	100	120
Army Reserve	1 320	1 600	1 720	1 730	1 730
Royal Air Force Reserves	80	90	120	130	140

Table 3: Strengths of personnel serving in the Regular and FR20 services, with ranks of Major (OF-3), as at April 2015-2019, by service.

	1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16	1 Apr 17	1 Apr 18	1 Apr 19
<b>All Regular Services</b>	8 190	8 170	8 180	8 130	8 080
Royal Navy/Royal Marines	1 970	2 020	2 000	1 970	1 940
Army	4 100	4 050	4 100	4 100	4 100
Royal Air Force	2 120	2 100	2 080	2 060	2 030

	1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16	1 Apr 17	1 Apr 18	1 Apr 19
<b>All FR20 Services</b>	2 184	2 320	2 468	2 595	2 748
Maritime Reserve	394	429	459	454	479
Army Reserve	1 697	1 787	1 891	1 978	2 067
Royal Air Force Reserves	93	104	118	163	202

Table 4: Strengths of BAME personnel serving in the Regular and FR20 services, with ranks of Major (OF-3), as at April 2015-2019, by service.

	1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16	1 Apr 17	1 Apr 18	1 Apr 19
<b>All Regular Services</b>	190	200	200	210	190
Royal Navy/Royal Marines	40	30	40	40	30
Army	120	130	130	140	130
Royal Air Force	40	40	30	30	30

	1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16	1 Apr 17	1 Apr 18	1 Apr 19
<b>All FR20 Services</b>	60	60	70	60	80
Maritime Reserve	10	10	10	10	10
Army Reserve	50	50	60	50	60
Royal Air Force Reserves	-	~	~	~	10

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). 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)