

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION ON THE REDUCTION IN SCOPE OF THE TRI-SERVICE FAMILIES CONTINUOUS ATTITUDE SURVEY REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) opened a consultation on 27 July 2017 seeking external users' views on the reduction in scope of the annual [Tri-Service Families Continuous Attitude Survey](#) (FamCAS) report by removing the tables on the impact of mobility (Section 8 of the report, published from 2015 onwards).

DETAIL OF OUTCOME

The consultation period ended on 7 September 2017. There were two responses to the consultation from the RAF and Naval Families Federations. They highlighted how key the issues of mobility is and raised concerns about whether this proposed reduction in scope would:

- a) reduce the evidence base available to themselves, for their own investigations and also to be able to hold those responsible for delivering the Armed Forces Covenant to account.
- b) reduce the ability to measure the impact of mobility over time and inform policies such as the Future Accommodation Model (FAM).

The mobility tables currently consist of over 100 of the tri-Service FamCAS questions broken down by whether families have moved for Service reasons or have not moved. In reference to the concerns raised above: the original proposal, to cease publication of these externally, would not have affected the evidence base available for internal stakeholders to monitor the impact of mobility and inform policy. However, the evidence base for external users would no longer be readily available and they would be required to submit a Freedom of Information request to access this data.

Following further discussions with all three Families Federations, the MOD has decided to continue publishing a reduced number of mobility tables. **Annex A** provides a list of the questions that will be published in the mobility tables from 2018 onwards. **Annex B** provides a list of the questions that we will no longer published after the 2017 report.

The MOD will cease publication of the Officer/Other Rank breakdown as part of the mobility tables. The general consensus was that this additional breakdown within the mobility tables is not needed and can complicate the main message – whether there is a difference between families who moved for Service reasons and families who did not move. **Annex C** provides an example of what the newly formatted tables, without the Officer/Other Rank breakdown, will look like.

Please note the Officer/Other Rank breakdown will still be provided in the main report tables.

The 2017 mobility tables were published as a separate supplement to the main report on 26 October 2017.

Annex A: FamCAS Questions to be included in the Mobility Tables post-2017

Do you live separately from your spouse/civil partner during the working week?
Derived: How often do you see your spouse/civil partner?
In the past 12 months approximately how much time has your spouse/civil partner spent away from home for Service reasons?
Derived: Are you currently employed? (Includes full-time, part-time or self-employed respondents)
How advantaged or disadvantaged do you feel when you compare yourself to the general public on these key Covenant issues? [1] Housing
How advantaged or disadvantaged do you feel when you compare yourself to the general public on these key Covenant issues? [2] Education
How advantaged or disadvantaged do you feel when you compare yourself to the general public on these key Covenant issues? [3] Healthcare
How advantaged or disadvantaged do you feel when you compare yourself to the general public on these key Covenant issues? [4] Family life
How advantaged or disadvantaged do you feel when you compare yourself to the general public on these key Covenant issues? [5] Childcare
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [1] Effect on my career
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [2] Effect on my children
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [3] Service-provided facilities
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [4] Effect on relationship with my spouse
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [5] Number of house moves
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [6] Household income
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [7] Knowing other military families
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [8] Community support for my family
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [9] Amount of separation from spouse/civil partner
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [10] Prospects of buying own home
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [11] Opportunities for travel
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [12] Pride in my spouse being in the Service
How positive or negative do you feel about the following aspects of Service life? [13] Job security
Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?
Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
How satisfied are you with your quality of life, being married to/in a civil partnership with a member of the Service?
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following: I feel valued by the Service

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following: I feel part of the wider Service community
How would you feel if your partner chose to leave the Service?
Do you have any children?
Have you needed early years (children between 0-4 years) childcare in the last 12 months?
If you needed early years (0-4 years) childcare in the last 12 months, have you been able to access it?
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of your local early years (0-4 years) childcare facilities? [1] Access
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of your local early years (0-4 years) childcare facilities? [2] Quality
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of your local early years (0-4 years) childcare facilities? [3] Cost
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of your local early years (0-4 years) childcare facilities? [4] Opening hours
Do you have children of school age?
Do any of your children attend a state school?
Do any of your children attend an independent day school?
Do any of your children attend an independent boarding school?
Do any of your children attend a Service school?
Do any of your children attend an 'Other' type of school?
Do you receive Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA)?
Did any of your children change school in the last 12 months?
Did you experience any difficulties with your children's schooling in the last 12 months?
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [1] Insufficient transportation to school
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [2] Distance to school
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [3] Getting a place at the school of your choice
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [4] Getting enough information about schools in your area
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [5] Not enough places at your local school
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [6] Unsuitable educational standard of your local school
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [7] Children could not attend the same school together
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [8] Obtaining support for Special Educational Needs (SEN) difficulties
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [9] School admission period did not coincide with notification of assignment
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [10] Local authority was unsupportive

Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [11] Continuing your children's education without a gap
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [12] Differences in syllabus
Did you experience any of the following difficulties with your children's schooling? [13] Other
Have you needed childcare for school age children in the last 12 months? (e.g. breakfast/after school clubs, child-minder pickups, school holiday clubs)
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of your local childcare for school age children? [1] Availability
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of your local childcare for school age children? [2] Quality
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of your local childcare for school age children? [3] Cost
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of your local childcare for school age children? [4] Opening hours
In the last 12 months, have you, or anyone in your family, experienced difficulties with the following as a result of Service life? [1] Accessing Further or Higher Education
In the last 12 months, have you, or anyone in your family, experienced difficulties with the following as a result of Service life? [2] Continuing a course previously started
What is your current employment status? [1] In full-time employment
What is your current employment status? [2] In part-time employment
What is your current employment status? [3] Self employed
What is your current employment status? [4] Homemaker/Parent at home
What is your current employment status? [5] Not employed - seeking employment
What is your current employment status? [6] Not employed - not seeking employment
Have you been looking for a job in the last 12 months?
If you have been looking for a job in the last 12 months, did you have difficulty finding suitable employment?
If you have a job, how satisfied are you with the following? [3] That you job matches your skills and experience (Full-time employed only)
If you have a job, how satisfied are you with the following? [3] That you job matches your skills and experience (Part-time employed only)
In the last 12 months have you/your children been able to access dental treatment? (Full table)
In the last 12 months have you/your children been able to access GP services? (Full table)
In the last 12 months have you/your children been able to access mental health treatment? (Full table)
In the last 12 months have you/your children been able to access hospital or specialist services? (Full table)
Derived: Given you required dental treatment in the last 12 months, were you/your children able to access it?
Derived: Given you required GP services in the last 12 months, were you/your children able to access them?
Derived: Given you required mental health treatment in the last 12 months, were you/your children able to access it?
Derived: Given you required hospital or specialist services in the last 12 months, were you/your children able to access them?

Do you own your own home? (Yes/No - Derived from B8.102)
Do you own your own home? (4 options)
What type of accommodation do you live in during the working week?
What type of accommodation would you prefer to live in during the working week?
Proportion of Service Families by accommodation type and preference.

Annex B: FamCAS Questions to be removed from the Mobility Tables post-2017

If you do live separately during the working week, how often do you see your spouse/civil partner?
Which of the following best sums up your awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant?
In the last 12 months, have you or your family accompanied your spouse/civil partner on overseas assignments?
What is your current employment status? [7] In full-time education/personal development
What is your current employment status? [8] In part-time education
What is your current employment status? [9] My immigration status means that I am unable to work
What is your current employment status? [10] Not applicable
If you have a job, how satisfied are you with the following? [1] Your job overall (Full-time employed only)
If you have a job, how satisfied are you with the following? [1] Your job overall (Part-time employed only)
If you have a job, how satisfied are you with the following? [1] Your job overall (Self-employed only)
If you have a job, how satisfied are you with the following? [2] That your qualifications match your job (Full-time employed only)
If you have a job, how satisfied are you with the following? [2] That your qualifications match your job (Part-time employed only)
If you have a job, how satisfied are you with the following? [2] That your qualifications match your job (Self-employed only)
If you have a job, how satisfied are you with the following? [3] That you job matches your skills and experience (Self-employed only)
If you experienced difficulty finding suitable employment, was it because of any of the following? [1] A lack of relevant qualifications
If you experienced difficulty finding suitable employment, was it because of any of the following? [2] Your employment history (i.e. changing jobs frequently)
If you experienced difficulty finding suitable employment, was it because of any of the following? [3] Being overseas with your spouse/civil partner
If you experienced difficulty finding suitable employment, was it because of any of the following? [4] Having a spouse who if often away
If you experienced difficulty finding suitable employment, was it because of any of the following? [5] Having a spouse in the Armed Forces
If you experienced difficulty finding suitable employment, was it because of any of the following? [6] Access to affordable and quality childcare
If you experienced difficulty finding suitable employment, was it because of any of the following? [7] Other
Derived: In the last 12 months have you/your children REQUIRED access to dental treatment?
Derived: In the last 12 months have you/your children REQUIRED access to GP services?
Derived: In the last 12 months have you/your children REQUIRED access to mental health treatment?
Derived: In the last 12 months have you/your children REQUIRED access to hospital or specialist services?
If you live in SFA or SSFA, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following? [1] The overall standard

If you live in SFA or SSFA, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following? [2] The value for money
If you live in SFA or SSFA, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following? [3] The response to requests for maintenance/repair
If you live in SFA or SSFA, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following? [4] The quality of maintenance/repair work
If you live in SFA or SSFA, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following? [5] How fairly Service accommodation is allocated
If you live in SFA or SSFA, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following? [6] The security of your SFA/SSFA
If you live in SFA or SSFA, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following? [7] The cleanliness of your accommodation when moving in

Annex C: Example of Mobility Table without Officer/Other Rank breakdown

Table B8.7 How advantaged or disadvantaged do you feel when you compare yourself to the general public on these key Covenant issues? [1] Housing

Percentages

		All Ranks			
		Moved (Service reasons)		Not moved	
		2015	2016	2015	2016
Tri-Service	Advantaged	43	38 ^	32 **	29
	Neither advantaged nor disadvantaged	25	26 ^	32 **	36
	Disadvantaged	21 **	27 ^	17 **	21
	Don't know	11	9 ^	19 **	14
	<i>Unweighted count</i>		1 982		4 949
RN/RM	Advantaged	38	40 ^	24	25
	Neither advantaged nor disadvantaged	32	29 ^	47	48
	Disadvantaged	16 **	26 ^	12	13
	Don't know	14 **	5 ^	18 **	13
	<i>Unweighted count</i>		314		1 780
Army	Advantaged	45 **	39 ^	40 **	33
	Neither advantaged nor disadvantaged	22	26	24 **	30
	Disadvantaged	21	26	17 **	23
	Don't know	11	9 ^	19 **	14
	<i>Unweighted count</i>		1 078		1 823
RAF	Advantaged	38	35 ^	26	26
	Neither advantaged nor disadvantaged	27	27 ^	35	37
	Disadvantaged	24	29 ^	19	23
	Don't know	11	10 ^	20 **	14
	<i>Unweighted count</i>		590		1 346

** denotes the estimate is significantly different to the 2016 estimate (99% confidence level).

^ denotes the estimate is significantly different to the 'Not moved' estimate (99% confidence level).

SUBSET: Responses are filtered for those who moved for Service reasons (28%) and those who did not move (63%).

Comparisons with previous years are not possible as this question was introduced in 2015.

Excludes missing responses.