



Ministry of Defence

Head of Defence Statistics (Tri Service)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Your Reference: [REDACTED]

Date: 4th July 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: [REDACTED]

Your correspondence [REDACTED] has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

“1. Broken down by the Navy, Air Force, Army and Royal Marines but excluding Ghurkhas and breaking down the general ethnic category of BME into its constituent ethnicities, please provide as absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total for both UK regular Forces and those in the Full Time Reserve Service, the recorded ethnicities and religious orientations (and religion by ethnicity e.g. Black African Navy personnel who are declared Christians as opposed to Black African declared Muslims) of a. applicants (e.g. over a 12 month period) and b. personnel for the last data collection point for which you have information.

2. If you have annual or other trend dataperhaps for every five years....going back to the 1950s of the type of information requested above (noting that the details of data actually recorded may have changed) please provide to the best of your ability but regardless of the fact that some such information may be held in written as opposed to computerised records.

3. Please provide the same or similar data for troops and other personnel who served in a. Afghanistan and b. Iraq distinguishing between those who served and those who lost their lives.

4. How many troops, sailors, airmen etc from which colonial countries fought and died in World War 2 a. as members of British Armed Forces and b. as members of Forces from their own countries? In addition to Indian and Caribbean servicemen I would be particularly interested in those from Malaya and African States. Approximation of numbers would be fine.”

On clarification, after exemption;

“Please go ahead and provide what you can within the limits.”

Subject to the original request, I am writing to confirm that we hold some of information on the subject you have requested.

We have answered *Questions 1 and 2* giving annual data at the 1 April point since 2007 (when all three services began recording personnel information on the Joint Personnel Administration



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

system) for Regulars and Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel. *Question 3* has been provided for with a table for personnel deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan given by financial year since 2007/08 and tables have been provided on the Religion and Ethnicity of those who have died since 2007/08 in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Please find the information that is held by the Defence Statistics in the attached Excel file. If you require this information in another format please contact us.

In relation to information regarding personnel who served in Afghanistan and Iraq who lost their lives; Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Defence Statistics (Health) suppress numbers less than five in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) I can confirm Defence Statistics (Health) compiles the Department's authoritative deaths database for all UK Armed Forces personnel who died whilst in Service going back to 1984. Information is compiled from several internal and external sources from which we release a number of internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

With regards to question 4 of your original request, please be advised that the CWGC is responsible for Commonwealth Service personnel who died in the Second World War, the CWGC dates of commemoration are 3 September 1939 – 31 December 1947. Information is available via the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. Please see link below.

<http://www.cwgc.org/>

I hope you find this helpful.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.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.uk

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering **Deaths and Casualties in the UK Armed Forces** and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

Yours sincerely,

Head of Defence Statistics (Tri Service)