



Ministry
of Defence

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Date: 17 August 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 14 July 2015 requesting the following information:

The [REDACTED] is currently investigating the overseas deployments of the British Army, especially the amount of British soldiers based in these countries between 2000 and 2015 for research purposes. Is it possible that you make this data available for us?

Following further communications on 20 July 2015 the request was clarified to be:

*Is it possible that you make this data available for us?
Please find below the list of countries we would like the figures for.*

- Iraq*
- Afghanistan*

Moreover, I would like to clarify that we seek the data regarding overseas deployment as we need the total amount of soldiers who have actually been deployed in these two countries between 2000 and 2015. If it is possible, we would like to request the amount of soldiers who came to these countries in each year as well as the amount of soldiers who left these countries each year. ”

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. Due to the implementation of Joint Personnel Administration system in April 2007, it is only possible to accurately determine dates of deployment from April 2007 onwards. All pre-April 2007 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan have been provided but cannot be further broken down by financial year.

Often an individual enters a deployed unit upon arrival and is then moved to another deployed unit within the same country. Each movement is counted as a separate deployment record. As such it is not possible to accurately report the numbers of personnel leaving a deployed country because the end date of the deployment does not indicate whether or not that individual has left the country or gone on to another unit in the same country.

Please see below the statistics you requested.

UK Armed Forces Personnel Deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq by Financial Year

Country of Deployment	Total Unique Personnel deployed	Prior to April 2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
Afghanistan	143 750	28 550	25 950	31 570	38 630	41 110	41 860	39 530	29 050	14 310

Country of Deployment	Total Unique Personnel deployed	Prior to April 2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
Iraq	141 950	126 000	21 920	18 010	5 200	520	230	20	~	500

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes:

1. Deployment data is derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) 'Move and Track' system using the 'deployed country code' and 'deployed unit location' fields. All reported personnel have a deployment record within the JPA Move & Track database.
2. Due to the implementation of Joint Personnel Administration system in April 2007, it is only possible to accurately determine dates of deployment from April 2007 onwards. All pre-April 2007 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan have been provided but cannot be further broken down by financial year.
3. UK Armed Forces Personnel' includes UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel and mobilised reservists.
4. Data only includes personnel who are deployed to an overseas location with an assigned country code. All personnel on overseas training exercises are excluded from the total figures published.
5. Totals are a count of unique individual personnel.
6. Totals do not include repeat tours and each individual is only recorded once across the stated time period.
7. The Date of Deployment is the 'deployed in date' as recorded on JPA. This is the date personnel first deployed into the respective count.
8. Personnel can appear in both the Afghanistan and Iraq figures.

Rounding:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, with figures ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Where rounding has been used, totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts. "~" denotes fewer than 5.

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 Information Rights Compliance team, 1st 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, <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.uk

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)