

Background Quality Report

UK Defence Statistics Compendium: Chapter 7

Sustainable development, Military Aid to the Civil Authorities and Conflict Prevention

1. Introduction

Overview

Chapter 7 of UKDS has one section on Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (7.1). This section contains one table which shows examples of assistance to the civil community by the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron.

DASA has previously published statistics on defence energy consumption, on fishery protection, on military aid to civil ministries during industrial disputes (and on Armed Forces and security in Northern Ireland) since 1992. In UKDS 2009 a new section on sustainable development was introduced, and following consultation, the section on Northern Ireland removed. However, further changes have been made to Chapter 7 for UKDS 2012 following a review which has resulted in the removal of the sustainable development and conflict prevention sections. At the end of Chapter 7, alternative sources for information previously published in UKDS (sustainable development and conflict prevention) are provided.

Methodology and Production

Data are received annually from a data supplier from
- MOD (Table 7.1). (the Marine Management Organisation)

The data supplier completes a standard template for Table 7.1 using data that are derived from their administrative systems. Table 7.1 provides a time series of statistics, from 2006/07 to 2011/12.

Table 7.1 has been checked for any obvious anomalies, but DASA cannot make an authoritative independent assessment of the data or their quality.

Definitions and explanations of the terminology used are provided in the Chapter. Table 7.1 is not a National Statistic which is explicitly marked in the Chapter.

Contact details

The Head of DASA Web and Development Services is responsible for UKDS Chapter 7. Their contact details are:

DASA WDS
MOD Main Building
3.K.50
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Tel: 020 780 78792

E-mail: dasa-wds-hd@mod.uk

Web site: www.dasa.mod.uk

DASA welcome feedback on this Background Quality Report or any of the statistics mentioned.

2. Relevance

The main users of UKDS Chapter 7 will be those interested in MOD practices and in particular MOD support for fisheries protection. This is most likely to include politicians, the media and members of the general public who are situated in areas with a fishing industry.

While internal systems may be sufficient for internal use, publication in UKDS makes this information available publicly, regularly and as a time series. The Table includes definitions and other information so that the data are set in context and can be understood by a lay audience as well as those with professional interests.

3. Accuracy

The statistics are drawn from MOD administrative data systems and provided to DASA.

The data for Table 7.1 has been provided by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). Both the MMO and The Royal Navy have undertaken quality control on the data. They have also been subjected to a "sense check" by Government Statisticians.

4. Timeliness and Punctuality

Publication dates for UKDS are, as a whole, agreed up to 12 months in advance and are published on the [Publication Release Dates](#)¹ section of [DASA webpage](#)² and on the [National Statistics Publication Hub](#)³. These statistics are published by DASA only in UKDS and each year the tables are updated to include the latest annual data. The timetable for the publication of these statistics is thus driven by the timetable for UKDS as a whole. Given that the statistics here relate to financial years, the UKDS timetable allows inclusion of the latest year's information. As this chapter is a relatively small component of UKDS and the statistics are published annually, the loss of any timeliness is thought to be outweighed by the benefits of publication in a compendium like UKDS.

UKDS is normally published in late September. However, in 2012 the publication of UKDS Chapters 2-7 was delayed until 12th December due to resource constraints in DASA. The publication of UKDS 2012 Chapter 1 was delayed until early 2013 as a result of the late receipt of source data which was in turn a result of the late publication of the MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2011 /12.

5. Accessibility and Clarity

UKDS is published on the [DASA website](#)². Individual Chapters are available as PDFs, with individual tables also available as web pages. The data underpinning the table are also available as an Excel file.

The introduction of Chapter 7 has two parts: Changes to UKDS Chapter 7 and Military Aid to Civil Authorities. The first section provides information about alterations that have been made to Chapter 7 for the 2012 publication, identifying any tables which have been removed since 2011. The second part of the introduction relates to Military Aid and Civil Authorities and provides contextual information for the data, outlines the material in the Table and identifies key points in the statistics, thus assisting with the overall clarity and accessibility of Chapter 7.

Within the Table there are further notes to clarify definitions and explain changes since previous years.

6. Coherence and Comparability

The Fishery Protection statistics (Table 7.1) only covers boardings (and convictions arising) made by RN Fishery Protection Squadron, who operate under contract to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Boardings carried out by the Scottish Executive Environment Directive and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland are not included. Therefore, this is a partial picture of both boardings and convictions. It also excludes the sea areas of the Faroes, Rockall and West of Scotland. The statistics are given for 2000/01 and from 2006/07 to 2011/12 providing a six-year time series. The reason for the break in series for convictions in 2008/09 is clearly explained.

7. Trade-offs between Output Quality Components

None identified.

8. Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions

DASA holds regular consultation meetings with both internal and external users of UKDS which provide a forum for user feedback on their needs and perceptions. However, it is often difficult to identify users of Chapter 7 to invite to these meetings. Another measure of user needs is the less formal evidence from customer queries to the editor of UKDS.

Analysis of hit rates on the external UKDS website shows that between September 2010 and April 2011 there were typically between 200 and 300 hits per month on Chapter 7 of UKDS. This shows that there is a relatively high level of use. In addition DASA actively encourages feedback from users via a link on each publication and previously via a “pop up” survey questionnaire – very little feedback relating to UKDS Chapter 7 has been received through these mechanisms.

9. Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden

The outputs are produced from the administrative data provided by the Marine Management Organisation. The benefit of DASA publishing these statistics is that these administrative data are placed in the public domain, and - though they are not National Statistics - in an analogous way that ensures their independence from political interference and adherence to quality standards. The small burden that this places on the data suppliers is considered to be worthwhile to achieve this, and the consequent public accountability provided by their publication.

10. Confidentiality, Transparency and Security

UKDS Chapter 7 does not contain any identifiable personal data.

All staff involved in the production process have signed the Data Protection Act, and all MoD, Civil Service and data protection regulations are adhered to. All data is stored, accessed and analysed using the MoD's restricted network and IT systems.

We adhere to the principles and protocols laid out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#)⁵ and comply with pre-release access arrangements. The [DASA Pre-Release Access lists](#)⁶ are available on the DASA website. This Chapter is subject to the pre-release access arrangements for UKDS as a whole.

11. References

	Reference	Website Location
1	Publication Release Dates	http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=68
2	DASA webpage	http://www.dasa.mod.uk
3	National Statistics Publication Hub	http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html
4	Code of Practice for Official Statistics	http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf
5	DASA Pre-Release Access lists	http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=QR_PRAL

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