

# Background Quality Report

## Statistical Series 4 - Equipment

### Bulletin 4.02 – Vehicle & Aircraft Holdings within the scope of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty

## 1. Introduction

### Overview

Statistical Bulletin 4.02 is an annual publication which provides information on equipment holdings of the United Kingdom and other nations within the scope of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE), as at 1 January each year. Within this bulletin, Tables 4.02.01 to 4.02.03 show UK holdings of vehicles and aircraft in the UK, Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar within the scope of the CFE Treaty, at 1 January from 2007 to 2014. The declared holdings and ceilings for a selection of countries in, and not in NATO at 1 January from 2009 to 2014 are also shown (Tables 4.02.04 to 4.02.08).

Due to a change in the format of the UK Defence Statistics (UKDS) Compendium publication in 2013, Bulletin 4.02 is the successor to Chapter 4 of UKDS, Tables 4.11 – 4.15. This bulletin will only contain information on equipment holdings within the scope of the CFE Treaty. Information on formations, vessels, aircraft and vehicles of the Armed Forces, originally published in Chapter 4 (Tables 4.01 – 4.10) are published separately in Bulletin 4.01.

It should be noted that under the terms of the CFE Treaty, all participating states are required to exchange information annually with all other participating states on their equipment holdings. This data is exchanged no later than 15<sup>th</sup> December and is valid as at 1<sup>st</sup> January the following year. Therefore the figures in this bulletin have been available to all other participating states since then.

### Methodology and Production

To produce this bulletin, data are received annually from data suppliers within the Ministry of Defence, specifically the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG). The data supplier completes standard templates for each of the tables using data that are derived from the CFE Data Exchange Chart IIA and IIIA. The tables within these Charts are compiled annually via census, which is sponsored by JACIG. JACIG directs all UK military Formations and Units to provide detailed information on their holdings of military hardware on a regular basis, which is sourced primarily to meet the data requirements of the CFE Treaty, The Vienna Document 2011 (VD11) and The Global Exchange of Military Information (GEMI). Definitions and explanations of the terminology used are provided within the Bulletin.

Extensive notes on the CFE Treaty, its coverage and definitions, are provided in the introduction of Bulletin 4.02. All the tables in this bulletin are National Statistics.

### Contact details

The Head of Defence Statistics (Web Development & Surveys) is responsible for Bulletin 4.02.

Defence Statistics (WDS)

Tel: 0207 8078792

MOD Main Building

3.K.50

E-mail: [defstrat-stat-wds-hd@mod.uk](mailto:defstrat-stat-wds-hd@mod.uk)

Whitehall

London SW1A 2HB

Defence Statistics welcome feedback on this Background Quality Report or any of the statistics mentioned. Statistical outputs produced by Defence Statistics can now be found on the [Statistics at MOD page](#)<sup>1</sup> of GOV.UK.

## 2. Relevance

The information in this bulletin has a wide range of users including CFE participating states, the media, politicians, academic researchers and the general public who use the information to:

- understand the size and organisation of the UK's Armed Forces holdings in Europe under the scope of the CFE treaty;
- set the context for other information on Defence;
- assist in understanding the impact of changes in Defence policy.

Bulletin 4.02 contributes to the public accountability of the MOD, and whilst internal systems may be sufficient for internal use, publication in bulletin format makes this information available publicly, regularly and as a time series. This publication is thought to be the only place in the public domain where information on the holdings and ceilings of the UK Armed Forces, within the scope of the CFE Treaty, are brought together in a coherent document. Furthermore, the bulletin 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 figures are taken from a live Consolidated Matrix, which is updated by all UK military Formations and Units throughout the year, in order to account for any changes to the number of conventional armaments and equipment during this period. This is to ensure that an accurate account of the armaments and equipment subject to the numerical limitations (and those subject to information exchange) as set out in the Treaty is given to participating states at the annual exchange of information in December of each year.

The data is error checked by the military Chain-of-Command and by the JACIG, who are responsible for the collation and dissemination of the data to signatory states of each Treaty / Agreement, and so is considered to be of good quality. It has also been subjected to manual validation by Government statisticians, to check for inconsistencies and trends in the data.

## 4. Timeliness and Punctuality

As a National Statistic, the release date for Bulletin 4.02 was pre-announced on the [MOD's Calendar of Upcoming Releases](#)<sup>2</sup> section of GOV.UK and on the [National Statistics Publication Hub](#)<sup>3</sup> in accordance with the guidance set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Following guidance from an assessment carried out by the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) on UKDS, the different chapters of UKDS have been separated and released as individual statistical bulletins. This is to allow information on various topics to be published as soon as the data is available, rather than waiting for all the other chapters to be completed, as was the case with previous editions of UKDS. A key benefit of this change is that timeliness of the statistics is improved, reducing the amount of time between the reference date of the statistics and the time of release.

Each year the tables in this bulletin are updated to include the latest annual data, as at 1 January each year. The timeliness of this bulletin has improved compared to last year, when it was released in August 2013, to May 2014 this year. To further increase the timeliness of the data, the intention is to release this bulletin even earlier in 2015.

## 5. Accessibility and Clarity

Bulletin 4.02 is published on the [Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Equipment Holdings Statistics page](#)<sup>4</sup> on GOV.UK as a PDF document. The tables are available as an Excel file to enable the figures to be reused.

An introduction to the bulletin is provided on the front page, which also informs the user that this publication updates figures previously released in the 2013 edition. A summary of key points and trends are included as well as a link to the Background Quality Report, and the contact details of the responsible statistician. The introduction assists with the accessibility and clarity of this publication by setting out the context of the statistics, providing definitions and explanations of the terms used and giving information on methods and data quality.

## **6. Coherence and Comparability**

The tables that contain information on UK vehicle and aircraft holdings in the UK, Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar within the scope of the CFE Treaty (4.02.01 to 4.02.03), provide a time series for years 2007 to 2014, as at 1 January each year. International comparisons of holdings and ceilings (Tables 4.02.04 to 4.02.08) are also provided as a time series as at 1 January each year for 2009 to 2014.

## **7. Trade-offs between Output Quality Components**

None identified.

## **8. Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions**

Defence Statistics has previously held regular consultation meetings with users of Defence Official Statistics, which provided a forum for user feedback on their needs and perceptions. Proposed changes were set out at the consultation meetings in order to gain feedback from both internal and external users.

Defence Statistics invites users to provide feedback to the statistical output teams on any of their publications or reports using the contact information on the front of the statistical bulletin.

## **9. Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden**

This output is produced from the administrative data provided by the MOD. The benefit of Defence Statistics publishing these statistics is that outputs from these data are placed in the public domain and as National Statistics in a 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**

Bulletin 4.02 does not contain any identifiable personal data.

All MOD, Civil Service and data protection regulations are adhered to. All data are 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](#)<sup>5</sup> and comply with pre-release access arrangements. The [Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists](#)<sup>6</sup> are available on gov.uk. This bulletin is subject to the pre-release access arrangements for UKDS as a whole.

## 11. References

	Reference	Website Location
1	Statistics at MOD Homepage	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/statistics</a>
2	MOD's Timetable of Future Releases of National and Official Statistics	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-timetable-for-future-releases-of-national-and-official-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-timetable-for-future-releases-of-national-and-official-statistics</a>
3	National Statistics Publication Hub	<a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html">http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html</a>
4	Bulletin 4.02 Homepage on GOV.UK	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/conventional-armed-forces-in-europe-equipment-holdings-statistics-index">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/conventional-armed-forces-in-europe-equipment-holdings-statistics-index</a>
5	Code of Practice for Official Statistics	<a href="http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf">http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf</a>
6	Defence Statistics Pre-release Access lists	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-statistics-pre-release-access-list">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-statistics-pre-release-access-list</a>