

# Background Quality Report

## Statistical Series 6 – Other

### Bulletin 6.01 – Land Holdings

## 1. Introduction

### Overview

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is one of the largest landowners in the country, with an estate equal to over 1% of the UK land mass. The estate, spread over approximately 4,000 sites, is critical to the effectiveness of the Armed Forces. It is used for training and accommodation and provides a base from which operations can be instigated.

Due to a change in the format of the UK Defence Statistics Compendium publication, Bulletin 6.01 is the successor to Chapter 6 of UKDS, Tables 6.1 – 6.3. Therefore, this bulletin will only contain information on Land Holdings. Service Family Accommodation (SFA), originally published in Chapter 6 (Tables 6.4 and 6.5), will now be released as its own publication (Bulletin 6.02).

The statistics on land holdings are published annually and provide land holdings in thousands of hectares by parent service area, country and type of use and in each case, whether owned, leased or with legal rights. Data are provided from administrative systems in the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). All the tables in this publication are National Statistics.

The MOD has published land holdings and building statistics since 1981.

### Methodology and Production

The land holding figures this year are derived from the DIO Infrastructure Management System (IMS) which has replaced the numerous information systems within DIO. The IMS contains information on all property assets that are owned, occupied or over which the MOD hold rights. The areas of each property are calculated from computerised mapping to provide the most accurate representation of the size of the Defence Estate.

Due to the way the data is held in the IMS, it is no longer possible to show the extent of foreshore that held by the MOD. Therefore, separate figures for this are no longer shown but are included in the totals provided.

Data are extracted from the IMS and collated by DIO staff to give the figures in Bulletin 6.01, Tables 6.01.01 to 6.01.03.

### Contact details

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

## 2. Relevance

Bulletin 6.01 is the primary means by which information on Land Holdings is made widely available.

The information in this chapter has a range of users including the media, politicians, academic researchers and the general public who use the information to:

- gain an understanding of size and condition of the MOD estate;
- set the context for other information on Defence;
- assist in understanding the impact of initiatives and policy on MOD estate

Public accountability requires that MOD should account for its assets as well as knowing where they are and how they are used. Although internal systems may be sufficient for internal use, publication as a Statistical Bulletin makes this information available publicly, regularly and as a time series. The tables include 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 data in these tables have been extracted from a MOD database, the IMS, which is considered to be reliable and there are no significant concerns over the accuracy of data. In addition to being manually sense-checked by DIO staff who have carried out the data extraction / collation, the figures are also reviewed by the DIO Chief Information and Process Owner. The data in these tables have also been subjected to a sense-check by Government Statisticians.

## 4. Timeliness and Punctuality

As a National Statistic, the release date for Bulletin 6.01 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 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 the timeliness of the statistics is remarkably 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 April of that year.

## 5. Accessibility and Clarity

Bulletin 6.01 is published on the [MOD Land Holdings 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 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. This is followed by a key findings section which includes graphical representation of some of the statistics, provides further detail about the trends in the data and draws attention to contextual information that has affected these trends.

Within the tables there is further information to clarify definitions, advise users of caveats in the data and explain changes since previous years.

The background information section assists with the accessibility and clarity of this bulletin 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 in this Bulletin cover the years 2000 and 2008 to 2014, providing a seven-year time series, together with a snapshot of the beginning of the century.

The statistics presented show both overall UK land holdings and the holdings for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland separately. Bulletin 6.01 does not offer any comparisons with holdings elsewhere and no demand for such comparisons has been identified. The form of the data allows users to make comparisons (e.g. international comparisons, comparisons to other land users) themselves.

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

The process for collating information requires substantial checking and includes approval by the DIO board. Although the data are requested early, it is often not finalised until close to the publication date and could not be published earlier.

## **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**

The outputs are produced from the administrative data provided by the DIO. The benefit of the MOD publishing the data on land holdings is that these administrative 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 6.01 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 6.01 Homepage on GOV.UK                                       | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-land-holdings-bulletin-index">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-land-holdings-bulletin-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>   |

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