



Ministry
of Defence

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Date: 10 September 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your [REDACTED] requesting the following information:

“Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like figures for the current strength and requirement of the various medical units within the armed forces down by service and trades such as radiologists, and anaesthetists, pathologists, dentists, various nursing staff and surgeons such as orthopaedic, chest, brain etc. If possible I would like figures for the last three years.”

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

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds some of the information related to this request.

Defence Statistics holds information on the strengths of the general employment groups that represent the medical units within the Armed Forces and the current (1 July 2014) Liabilities / Requirements for the Royal Navy/Royal Marines and RAF, which have been provided.

Defence Statistics (Army) are not aware of any current (1 July 2014) liabilities for medical cap badges so unable to provide a current point as the most recent liability for these cap badges were set at 1 April 2014 and therefore not comparable with the current strength figures quoted.

Please note, as the figures attached relate to the medical general employment groups they also include personnel who are in support of medical roles.

For some of the detailed categories suggested in the request; the department does hold some liability requirement figures for these more specific trades / cadres and could provide these in specific request.

Please find overleaf tables containing strength and liability information for full-time personnel in the medical branches and trades as at 1 July 2014, by Service;

Strength and Liabilities of Royal Navy / Royal Marines Full-time Personnel for Medical Branches and Trades as at 1 July 2014

	Trained Strength	Liability	Surplus/ Deficit
Officers			
Medical	270	220	50
Medical Services	60	70	-10
Dental Services	50	70	-10
QARNNS*	70	100	-30
Other Ranks			
Medical	910	960	-50
Dental Hygienist	10		
Dental Support Assistant	80		
Medical Assistant	560		
Medical Technician	30		
Naval Nurse	160		
Royal Marine Medical Assistant	60		

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

* QARNNS is the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service

1. Liability split by Officer/Rating, Branch & Spec is taken from the relevant Planning Liability (currently PL 2-14) scaled to Defence Plan liability. Monthly liability figures for July 14 are calculated using a straight line interpolation between the relevant PL April points (currently April 13 and April 14).

Rounding

Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5 and "-" denotes zero.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) please note that Defence Statistics (Navy) publishes figures on the Strength and Liability, by Branch, Specialisation and Arm, of current Royal Navy / Royal Marines personnel in the RN/RM Monthly Personnel Situation Report publication, the most recent edition was published on 14 August 2014 for 1 July 2014. Figures for 1 August 2014 will be published on the 11 September 2014 and can be found here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/royal-navy-monthly-report-on-the-personnel-situation-2014>

Strength and Liabilities of Army Full-time Personnel for Medical Branches and Trades as at 1 July 2014

	Trained Strength	Liability	Surplus/ Deficit
Officers			
Royal Army Medical Corps	940	*	*
Royal Army Dental Corps	110	*	*
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	40	*	*
QARANC	250	*	*
Other Ranks			
Royal Army Medical Corps	2 150	*	*
Royal Army Dental Corps	180	*	*
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	360	*	*
QARANC	630	*	*

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

QARANC is Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps

1. Defence Statistics (Army) are not aware of any liabilities for these cap badges as at 1 July 2014 so unable to provide a current point as the most recent liability for these cap badges were set at 1 April 2014 and therefore not comparable with the current strength figures.
2. The figures for Officers exclude some senior personnel within the cap badge Staff who may be in support of medical roles within the Army and would be counted against a different liability.
3. Figures are for Full Time Trained Strength, and thus include Trained Regulars, Gurkhas, and parts of the Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) that fill Regular Posts.

Rounding

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Strength and Liabilities of RAF Full-time Personnel for Medical Branches and Trades as at 1 July 2014

	Trained Strength	Liability	Surplus/ Deficit
Officers			
Medical Officer	230	230	~
Medical Support Officer (Mainstream/Environmental Health Officer)	80	80	10
Medical Support Officer (Physiotherapist)	30	30	~
Dental Officer	50	60	~
Nursing Officer	150	180	-30
Other Ranks			
Trade Group 15	960	1 050	-80
Pharmacy Technician	20	20	~
Environmental Health Technician	40	40	~
Operating Department Practitioner	20	30	-10
Radiographer	10	10	~
Biomedical Scientist	20	20	~
RAF Medic	550	590	-50
Nurses Spine	310	330	-30
Trade Group 16	120	140	-20
Dental Technician	~	10	~
Dental Hygienist	20	20	~
Dental Nurse	100	110	-10

Source: Defence Statistics (Air)

- Liability as at 01 Jul 14 is an interpolation between the latest 01 Apr 14 and 01 Apr 15 liabilities broken down by branch / trade which was provided by Air-COSPers-Mann Req on 14 and 23 May 2014, respectively. Liability as at 1 April 2014 is an actual, retrospectively calculated figure generated to provide as accurate an end of year manpower balance comparison as practical. This is not contiguous with in-year figures used in other statistics, which are based upon forecasts.

Rounding

Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5 and "-" denotes zero.

If you have any questions relating to this request please contact DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk.

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

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri Service)