



Ministry of Defence

Head of Defence Statistics (Tri Service)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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Your Reference: [REDACTED]

Date: 10th December 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: [REDACTED]

Your correspondence [REDACTED] has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

“I would like to know outflow numbers of all armed forces services, by length of service, for the last five years.”

And additionally,

“I would ideally like each year presented by categories of different lengths of service. I am particularly interested in the length of service of personnel who leave each service before the end of their minimum contract- so less than a year, 1-2 years, 2-5, 6-10 etc.”

Please find enclosed the information you requested.

Table 1 - Outflow¹ from UK Regular² Population financial years, 2008/09 to 2012/13

Financial Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
All Services	21 650	18 270	18 140	21 370	23 520
Naval Service	4 440	3 720	3 630	4 320	4 350
Army	13 080	11 560	11 500	13 200	14 890
RAF	4 120	2 990	3 010	3 850	4 280

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

1. Figures show outflow from UK Regular Forces, both trained and untrained, including personnel leaving the Services, deaths, recalled reservists on release and outflow to the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment (which disbanded on 31 March 2008). They do not include promotion from Ranks to Officers or flows between Services and are not comparable with gains to trained strength figures which include promotion from Ranks to Officers.
2. UK Regular Forces comprises trained and untrained personnel. It does not include Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and mobilised reservists.



Table 2 – Outflow² by Length Of Service on exit, by service³ and financial year

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
All Services	21 650	18 270	18 140	21 370	23 520
Less than 1 year	4 850	5 260	3 190	3 100	2 670
1-2 years	1 880	1 690	2 230	1 740	1 350
3-5 years	4 140	2 970	3 360	3 900	4 280
6-10 years	4 110	3 080	2 900	3 920	5 370
11-15 years	1 280	1 040	1 310	2 000	2 840
16-21 years	930	620	610	960	1 190
22-27 years	3 450	2 730	3 420	4 470	4 490
28-37 years	920	790	980	1 190	1 250
Over 37 years	70	80	100	80	90
Unknown ¹	-	20	30	-	-
Naval Service	4 440	3 720	3 630	4 320	4 350
Less than 1 year	1 000	1 120	800	450	530
1-2 years	370	280	310	330	180
3-5 years	860	560	610	830	760
6-10 years	780	570	580	920	1 030
11-15 years	230	160	240	380	500
16-21 years	240	170	180	220	180
22-27 years	670	590	610	840	760
28-37 years	280	260	290	330	380
Over 37 years	10	10	10	10	10
Unknown ¹	-	-	10	-	-
Army	13 080	11 560	11 500	13 200	14 890
Less than 1 year	3 270	3 510	2 140	2 460	2 030
1-2 years	1 430	1 300	1 720	1 240	1 050
3-5 years	2 750	2 190	2 560	2 780	3 100
6-10 years	2 480	1 960	1 800	2 380	3 640
11-15 years	800	630	790	1 130	1 580
16-21 years	380	280	260	470	670
22-27 years	1 760	1 450	1 970	2 440	2 490
28-37 years	200	210	220	270	300
Over 37 years	10	10	10	20	20
Unknown ¹	-	10	20	-	-
RAF	4 120	2 990	3 010	3 850	4 280
Less than 1 year	580	630	250	180	110
1-2 years	80	120	190	160	110
3-5 years	530	220	190	290	420
6-10 years	850	540	520	620	700
11-15 years	250	240	290	490	750
16-21 years	300	170	170	270	340
22-27 years	1 020	680	840	1 200	1 240
28-37 years	450	320	470	590	560
Over 37 years	60	70	80	60	60
Unknown ¹	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

1. Length of service (LOS) has been calculated using entry date, when an individual has no entry date flow data has been used to calculate LOS. There are known problems with the entry date / flow date information extracted from JPA. If personnel have transferred from another Service, have served under an alternative assignment type (e.g. reserve forces), are re-entrants or transferred from Other Ranks to Officers, their entry date may correspond to any of these events. The resulting LoS may reflect their current period of service, include previous service, or it may be the time that has elapsed since they first joined the Armed Forces, irrespective of any break in service. It will invariably include time spent on untrained strength. When an individual has a missing corresponding exit or flow date to their entry date, their length of service has been classified as unknown.
2. Outflow includes all trained and untrained UK Regular Forces personnel and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, volunteer reserves and mobilised reservists.
3. Each service offers different contracts and minimum service lengths for personnel; this may contribute to the differences in the lengths of services at exit for personnel in each service.



I hope you find this helpful.

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)