



Ministry  
of Defence

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Reference: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date: 30 July 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 25 July 2014 requesting the following information:

*“What was the number of unique British Armed Forces personnel who deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan between 1st January 2001 and 31st March 2014? For clarity, we are looking for the total number of distinct individuals who deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq (or to both). For example, a Marine who has served in both Iraq and Afghanistan would count as 1 distinct individual.”*

and

*“If possible, I would be grateful if you could provide the reply in a form that indicates deployments by year.”*

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 information on the subject you have requested.

Since the beginning of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq to 31 March 2014, **220,550** individual UK Armed Forces personnel have been deployed to either or both Afghanistan and Iraq.

This figure is for **unique individuals** deployed to either or both Afghanistan and Iraq, essentially how many Service personnel can say they have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. For example a member of Service personnel deployed to both countries multiple times would be counted as 1 unique individual deployed and a member of Service personnel deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan once would also be recorded as 1 unique individual deployed.

**Unique<sup>1</sup> UK Armed Forces Personnel<sup>2</sup> Deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan<sup>3</sup> by financial year<sup>4</sup> of earliest deployment to either Iraq and/or Afghanistan**

	pre-2007/08	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>Unique personnel deployed</b>	<b>138 570</b>	<b>18 320</b>	<b>14 750</b>	<b>11 420</b>	<b>10 880</b>	<b>10 530</b>	<b>9 480</b>	<b>6 610</b>

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri Service)

**Notes**

1. The information above relates to the number of individuals, by the **first time** they were deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan and each individual is recorded only once against the financial year of their first deployment to either Iraq or Afghanistan. Figures do not include repeat tours and each individual is only recorded once.
2. 'UK Armed Forces Personnel' includes UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel and mobilised reservists.
3. Data only includes personnel who are deployed to an overseas location with an assigned country code; deployments overseas include but not limited to all military personnel mobilised for contingency operations, wartime operations, United Nations peacekeeping operations and humanitarian operations.
4. Due to the implementation of Joint Personnel Administration system in all three services beginning April 2007; Defence Statistics (Tri Service) only hold data which can distinguish between financial years from this point. All pre-2007/08 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan cannot be broken down for financial year using legacy data.

**Rounding**

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, with figures ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

**Data Sources**

- Deployment data are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) 'Move and Track' system using the 'deployed country code'. Due to ongoing validation of data from JPA, figures provided are provisional and subject to change.
- Service personnel data is derived from the JPA system, which is a combination of mandatory and non-mandatory fields populated by unit administrators and voluntary fields that Armed Forces personnel can choose to complete based on their perceptions. Due to ongoing validation of data from JPA some data may be provisional.

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](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri Service)