



Ministry
of Defence

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[REDACTED]

Date: **5th August 2016**

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 15th July 2016 requesting the following information:

1. The total number of senior officers from 2 star and above in the British Army (Major General, Lieutenant General, and General) and those who are:
 - a. Black
 - b. Black African
 - c. Black Caribbean
 - d. Mixed race with African descent
 - e. Mixed race with Caribbean descent
 - f. Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME).
2. The total number of senior officers in the Royal Navy (Vice-Admirals, Admirals and Admiral of the Fleet) and those who are:
 - a. Black
 - b. Black African
 - c. Black Caribbean
 - d. Mixed race with African descent
 - e. Mixed race with Caribbean descent
 - f. Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME).
3. The total number of senior officers in the Royal Air Force (Air Marshal, Air Chief Marshal, Marshal of the RAF) and those who are:
 - a. Black
 - b. Black African
 - c. Black Caribbean
 - d. Mixed race with African descent
 - e. Mixed race with Caribbean descent
 - f. Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME).

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

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held. Ethnicity as recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) database is self-declared by individual personnel. At 1 April 2016 there were 26,820 Officers in the UK Regular Forces, of which 630 (2.4 per cent) declared a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) ethnicity on JPA. Of the 133 UK Regular Forces personnel ranked as OF-7 or above as at 1 April 2016, none declared their ethnicity as BAME, Black, Black African, Black Caribbean, Mixed race with African descent or Mixed race with Caribbean descent on JPA. It should be noted, that it will take between 25-30 years for an officer to reach the rank of OF-7, and as the UK military internally promotes its Officers we expect these statistics to change in the coming years. Table 1 reports the number of 2 Star (OF-7) and above UK Regular Forces personnel by Service as at 1 April 2016.

Table 1: 2 Star and above UK Regular Forces¹ Personnel as at 1 April 2016

	All Services	Royal Navy	Royal Marines	Army	RAF
Total	133	35	3	61	34
OF-9	7	1	-	4	2
OF-8	31	8	2	12	9
OF-7	95	26	1	45	23

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes:

1. UK Regular Forces comprises Full-time personnel but does not include Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and Reservists.
2. All 2 star and above UK Regular Forces personnel had self-declared their ethnicity on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) database as at 1 April 2016.
3. Information on the alignment between NATO Rank codes and UK Service Ranks can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522136/Tri-Service_Glossary_-_April_16.pdf#page=10
4. Strengths for Senior Officers have been left unrounded because statistics for these personnel are considered non-sensitive and are already in the public domain.

Symbols:

- Zero

The Ministry of Defence is dedicated to becoming a more diverse and inclusive organisation, and it is driven by a programme of work covering both civilian and military employees. The Armed Forces have recently started a program of activities to increase the number of ethnic minority recruits, at both soldier and officer level, into the Armed Forces to 10% and the number of female recruits to 15% by 2020.

It should be noted that this FOI does not cover reservist officers.

Under **Section 16** (Duty to provide advice and assistance) of the FOIA, you may find it useful to know that Table 2a of the Diversity Statistics publication reports the number of BAME Regular personnel by NATO rank and shows that there are BAME personnel at OF-6 and above at 1 April 2016. The Diversity Statistics publication can be accessed at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525719/Biannual_Diversity_Statistics_1Apr16_final.xlsx

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 Information Rights Compliance team, 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, <https://ico.org.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)