



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building (06/K)  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Ref:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your emails of [Redacted] and [Redacted] in which you requested the following information:

*"I wish to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. 1) Number of Armed Forces Personnel who have left the Armed Forces since 1st December 2014 via a PVR or resignation of commission. 2) A breakdown of these figures by branch of service. 3) The number of personnel, by service, who sited housing or family reasons as a contributing factor to their decision to leave.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed, and I can confirm that information is held which falls within the scope of your request. In regard to Questions 1 and 2, please refer to the Table below.

**Table 1: Trained UK Regular Forces personnel who left on Voluntary Outflow from 1 December 2014 to 31 March 2016**

Branches	Total Trained Outflow	Number of VO
All Services	19 040	10 250
Royal Navy/Royal Marines	3 360	2 040
Army	12 220	6 090
Royal Air Force	3 460	2 120

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes

1. Trained UK Regular Forces comprises all trained Full-time personnel but does not include Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and Reservists.
2. Voluntary Outflow (VO) encompasses all personnel who voluntarily exit before the end of their agreed engagement or contracted period.
3. Rounding: Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid systematic bias. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

Please note that PVR has been replaced by Voluntary Outflow (VO).

Service Personnel statistics are also published on gov.uk which contains figures on the outflow of personnel by exit reason, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-2016>

In regard to Q3 please refer to the Table below.

**Table 2: Number of Leaving Reasons selected by Trained UK Regular Forces personnel who left on Voluntary Outflow from 1 December 2014 to 1 April 2016 that relate to housing or family reasons.**

Leaving Reason Given	All Services	of which: RN/RM	Army	RAF
Live in Own Home/Settle & Live in One Area	3 630	660	2 150	810
Spouse's/Partner's Job	810	130	460	220
Children's Education	580	80	360	140
Standard of Service Accommodation	240	40	160	40

Source: CDP Strategic Workforce Analysis

#### Notes

1. The above table is based on data provided to CDP Strategic Workforce Analysis by Defence Business Services. This data is held on a different system to that from which Table 1 is taken (Defence Statistics).
2. As part of the process through which Service Personnel apply for Voluntary Outflow (VO) they can select up to four reasons, from a list of 21 reasons, specifying their '*Reason for Leaving*'. The above shows the number of Service Personnel who selected reasons relating to Family or Housing.
3. Care should be taken when interpreting the above table as up to four different reasons can be selected by one single Service Person. The above therefore represents the frequency of selections for the stated Leaving Reasons rather than unique individuals. For example the smallest amount of individuals that could be reflected in the table above is c. 3,630 (the same individuals selected all four reasons above) and the most is c. 5,260 (no individuals selected any *combination* of the leaving reasons above).
4. Additionally it is technically possible for the same individual to select the same reason multiple times. The dataset the above table is based upon has been analysed and this has occurred for a single record. The removal of this record from the dataset would affect one of the rounded numbers in Table 2 reducing it by 10. Any further reference could lead to the personal identification of the individual this record refers to, which would be a breach of the Data Protection Act. For completeness it has been judged better to keep the record included then removed.
5. Trained UK Regular Forces comprises all trained Full-time personnel but does not include Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and Reservists.
6. Voluntary Outflow (VO) encompasses all personnel who voluntarily exit before the end of their agreed engagement or contracted period.
7. Rounding: Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid systematic bias. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

Information on the attitudes of serving Regular Service Personnel, and their views on conditions of service, can be found in the latest Armed Forces Continual Attitudes Survey:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-2016>

The decision to leave the Armed Forces generally reflects a combination of factors which can be categorised into 'push' factors (the impact of Service life on the individual) and 'pull' (the attraction of life outside the Armed Forces and market forces). We therefore ask those leaving voluntarily to in record up to four different reasons for their application.

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat