



# Ministry of Defence

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Our Reference: FOI2015/07875

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8 October 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your emails to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 9 September in which you requested the following information:

- The number of successful applicants who joined the Army in each of the last two financial years, broken down by office/recruitment centre.
- Please also state the government region that each of these is located in.
- An ethnic breakdown of successful recruits, broken down into the smallest possible area (ie. Ideally by office/recruitment centre).
  
- The number of successful applicants who joined the Royal Navy in each of the last two financial years, broken down by office/recruitment centre.
- Please also state the government region that each of these is located in.
- An ethnic breakdown of successful recruits, broken down into the smallest possible area (ie. Ideally by office/recruitment centre).
  
- The number of successful applicants who joined the Royal Air Force in each of the last two financial years, broken down by office/recruitment centre.
- Please also state the government region that each of these is located in.
- An ethnic breakdown of successful recruits, broken down into the smallest possible area (ie. Ideally by office/recruitment centre).

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. I can confirm that the MOD holds some information within the scope of your request. Under the terms of the FOIA your requests have been amalgamated and the Department is therefore providing one central response covering the three requests.

Under Section 21 of the FOI Act the MOD is not obliged to supply information that is reasonably accessible to the applicant, by other means. In the case of the recruitment numbers and the number of ethnic recruits to the Armed Forces, the latest available information is published online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-diversity-dashboard-2013>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-diversity-dashboard-2014>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-diversity-dashboard-2015>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-monthly-personnel-report-2015>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-quarterly-personnel-report-2015>

Please be aware that the Armed Forces do not routinely record recruitment numbers by region, but the Navy (Annex A) and Royal Air Force (RAF) (Annex B) have been able to provide figures broken down by recruitment centre for the recruiting years 2013/14 and 2014/15. Please note that the Navy and RAF record their figures in slightly different formats and that the Navy have been able to identify broad geographic regions.

The Army recruiting process has been carried out online since March 2013 and so applications are not undertaken through local careers offices. Information regarding Army recruitment is therefore not available by centre or region. Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) figures for all three Services are based on those with a known ethnic origin – i.e. those that have chosen to declare. Armed Forces personnel are under no obligation to declare BAME status.

Please note. in accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data all numbers have been rounded; therefore totals may not equal the sum of their parts. All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systemic bias. A figure of 5 or fewer is represented by ~.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you.

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, 1st 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