



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)
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Reference: FOI2015/07008

Date: 2 September 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 6 August 2015 requesting the following information:

- “1. How many regular Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Muslim personnel are currently serving in each of the 3 Services (Naval Service, Army - not including the Brigade of Gurkhas - and Royal Air Force)?***
- 2. How many reservist Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Muslim personnel are currently serving in each of the 3 Services (Naval Service, Army - not including the Brigade of Gurkhas - and Royal Air Force)?***
- 3. For each of questions 1 and 2, of those personnel in each Service, how many are:***
 - a. British-born;***
 - b. Overseas-born but became naturalised British citizens prior to joining the Armed Forces (and how many were born in each non-British country?);***
 - c. Foreign/Commonwealth nationals (and how many are of each non-British nationality?)***
- 4. How many Hindu, Buddhist and total Gurkha Service personnel are there in the Brigade of Gurkhas?”***

We are 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 within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information, in scope of your request is held.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested in part 3b: ***“Overseas-born but became naturalised British citizens prior to joining the Armed Forces (and how many were born in each non-British country?)”*** is not held by the Ministry of Defence.

The information you have requested in the remaining questions can be found in the tables below.

1. UK Regular Service Personnel (excluding Brigade of Gurkha's) declaring Religious affiliation as Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim or Sikh at 1 October 2014

	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh
All Services Total	580	910	570	160
RNRM	40	20	40	10
Army	490	850	480	140
RAF	40	40	40	10

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

2. Future Reserve 2020 Volunteer Reserves declaring Religious affiliation as Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim or Sikh as at 1 October 2014

	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh
All Services	70	120	120	50
Maritime Reserve	10	10	~	~
Army Reserve	60	110	120	40
Royal Air Force Reserves	~	~	~	~

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

3ai. UK Regular Service Personnel (excluding Brigade of Gurkha's) declaring Religious affiliation as Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim or Sikh by Country of Birth at 1 October 2014

	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh
All Services Total	580	910	570	160
United Kingdom	130	50	120	60
Non-UK Born	420	860	440	100
No Value	20	10	20	~
RNRM Total	40	20	40	10
United Kingdom	20	10	10	10
Non-UK Born	~	10	20	~
No Value	20	~	10	~
Army Total	490	850	480	140
United Kingdom	80	30	70	40
Non-UK Born	410	820	410	100
No Value	~	~	-	-
RAF Total	40	40	40	10
United Kingdom	40	10	30	10
Non-UK Born	10	20	10	~
No Value	-	-	~	-

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

ii. Future Reserve 2020 Volunteer Reserves declaring Religious affiliation as Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim or Sikh by Country of Birth at 1 October 2014

	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh
All Services	70	120	120	50
United Kingdom	30	30	60	40
Non-UK	30	80	60	10
No Value	~	~	~	~
Maritime Reserve	10	10	~	~
United Kingdom	~	~	~	~
Non-UK	~	~	~	-
No Value	~	~	~	~
Army Reserve	60	110	120	40
United Kingdom	30	30	50	30
Non UK	30	80	60	10
No Value	-	-	-	-
Royal Air Force Reserves	~	~	~	~
United Kingdom	~	~	~	~
Non-UK	-	~	-	~
No Value	~	-	-	-

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

3ci. UK Regular Service Personnel (excluding Brigade of Gurkha's) declaring Religious affiliation as Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim or Sikh by Nationality at 1 October 2014

	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh
All Services Total	580	910	570	160
British	420	380	230	80
Foreign and Commonwealth	160	530	340	80
<i>Of which</i> Bangladeshi	-	~	20	-
Cameroonian	-	-	~	-
Citizen of Fiji	-	~	~	-
Citizen of Sri Lanka	10	~	~	-
Dominican	-	-	~	-
Gambian	-	-	210	-
Ghanaian	-	-	40	-
Grenadian	~	-	-	-
Indian	~	60	~	70
Irish	-	~	-	-
Jamaican	-	-	~	-
Kenyan	-	-	~	~
Malawian	-	-	~	-
Malaysian	~	~	-	~
Mauritian	-	30	~	-
Nepalese	140	420	-	-
Nigerian	-	-	20	-
Pakistani	-	-	20	-
Sierra Leonean	-	-	~	-
South African	~	~	~	-
Trinidad and Tobago citizen	-	~	~	-
Ugandan	-	-	~	-
Zimbabwean	-	-	~	-
Unknown	-	-	~	-
RNRM Total	40	20	40	10
British Total	40	10	30	10
Foreign and Commonwealth	~	~	10	~
<i>Of which</i> Gambian	-	-	10	-
Indian	-	~	-	~
Malaysian	-	-	-	~
Nepalese	~	~	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago citizen	-	-	~	-
Army Total	490	850	480	140
British Total	330	330	160	60
Foreign and Commonwealth Total	160	520	330	70
<i>Of which</i> Bangladeshi	-	~	20	-
Cameroonian	-	-	~	-
Citizen of Fiji	-	~	~	-
Citizen of Sri Lanka	10	-	~	-
Dominican	-	-	~	-
Gambian	-	-	200	-
Ghanaian	-	-	40	-
Grenadian	~	-	-	-
Indian	~	60	~	70
Jamaican	-	-	~	-
Kenyan	-	-	~	~
Malawian	-	-	~	-
Malaysian	~	~	-	-
Mauritian	-	30	~	-
Nepalese	140	420	-	-
Nigerian	-	-	20	-
Pakistani	-	-	20	-
Sierra Leonean	-	-	~	-
South African	~	~	~	-
Trinidad and Tobago citizen	-	~	-	-
Ugandan	-	-	~	-
Zimbabwean	-	-	~	-
Royal Air Force Total	40	40	40	10
British Total	40	30	40	10
Foreign and Commonwealth Total	-	~	~	-
<i>Of which</i> Citizen of Sri Lanka	-	~	-	-
Indian	-	~	-	-
Irish	-	~	-	-
Mauritian	-	~	-	-
Pakistani	-	-	~	-
South African	-	-	~	-
Unknown Total	-	-	~	-

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

3cii. Future Reserve 2020 Volunteer Reserves declaring Religious affiliation as Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim or Sikh by Nationality at 1 October 2014

	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh
All Services	70	120	120	50
British	50	70	100	50
Foreign and Commonwealth	20	50	20	~
<i>of which</i>				
Australian	~	-	-	-
Ghanaian	-	-	~	-
Gambian	-	-	10	-
Indian	-	~	~	~
Jamaican	-	-	~	-
Kenyan	-	-	~	-
Nigerian	-	-	~	-
Malaysian	~	-	~	-
Mauritanian	-	~	-	-
Nepalese	20	40	-	-
Pakistani	-	-	~	-
Sierra Leonean	-	-	~	-
Sri Lankan	~	~	~	-
Trinidad and Tobago	-	~	-	-
Maritime Reserve	10	10	~	~
British	10	10	~	~
Foreign and Commonwealth	-	-	-	-
Army Reserve	60	110	120	40
British	40	60	100	40
Foreign and Commonwealth	20	50	20	~
<i>of which</i>				
Australian	~	-	-	-
Ghanaian	-	-	~	-
Gambian	-	-	10	-
Indian	-	~	~	~
Jamaican	-	-	~	-
Kenyan	-	-	~	-
Nigerian	-	-	~	-
Malaysian	~	-	~	-
Mauritanian	-	~	-	-
Nepalese	20	40	-	-
Pakistani	-	-	~	-
Sierra Leonean	-	-	~	-
Sri Lankan	~	~	~	-
Trinidad and Tobago	-	~	-	-
Royal Air Force Reserves	~	~	~	~
British	~	~	~	~
Foreign and Commonwealth	-	-	-	-

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

4. Gurkha Service Personnel in the Brigade of Gurkhas declaring Religious affiliation as Buddhist or Hindu at 1 October 2014

All Personnel	2 020
<i>Of which</i>	
Buddhist	460
Hindu	1 180

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes

1. **UK Regulars** Full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), High Readiness Reserve (HRR) and Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) personnel. Unless otherwise stated, includes trained and untrained personnel.
2. **Gurkhas** are recruited and employed in the British and Indian Armies under the terms of the 1947 Tri-Partite Agreement (TPA) on a broadly comparable basis. They remain Nepalese citizens but in all other respects are full members of HM Forces. Since 2008, Gurkhas are entitled to join the UK Regular Forces after 5 years of service and apply for British citizenship.
3. The **Future Reserve 2020 Volunteer Reserve** population includes mobilised volunteer reserves, High Readiness Reserves (HRR) and those volunteer reserves serving on Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and Additional Duties Commitments (ADC). Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI), Sponsored Reserves and University Officer Cadets and excluded.
4. Religion and Nationality are self-reported on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. Religion is not a mandatory field and numbers are only reported for those who have chosen to declare their Religion as either Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim or Sikh on JPA.

Rounding

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

Figures below 5 denoted by ~, zero denoted by -.

Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and may not equal the sum of their rounded parts

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). 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)