



Ministry
of Defence

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Date: 25 February 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your clarification email of 28th January 2015 requesting the following information:

- *How many unique individuals served in the British Armed Forces (as regulars) between 1st April 2007 and 31st October 2014? With any available totals provided for dates before back to 1 January 1991.*
- *How many unique individuals served in the British Armed Forces (as reservists) between 1st October 2012 and 31st October 2014? With any available totals provided for dates before back to 1 January 1991.*
- *What was the size (in terms of Trained Regular Personnel) of the British Armed Forces in each year between 1st January 1991 and 31st October 2014? and with any available detail on;*
 - *Combat Arms (Infantry, Cavalry and Royal Marines),*
 - *Combat Support and Combat Service Support (for Army and Royal Marines Commando personnel)*
 - *Royal Navy*
 - *RAF*
- *What was the size (in terms of Trained Reservist Personnel) of the British Armed Forces in each year between 1st April 2012 and 31st October 2014? With any available related totals provided for dates before back to 1 January 1991.*

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.

The information you have requested can be found overleaf.

Unique individuals serving in the UK Regular Forces

Between 1st April 2007 and the 1st November 2014, there have been **311,060** individuals in the **UK Regular Forces**.

Of which there have been **269,830** individuals who have been a **trained UK Regular** between 1st April 2007 and the 1st November 2014.

Notes:

1. UK Regulars are full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding FTRS personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guarding Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), and Non Regular Permanent Service (NRPS). Unless otherwise stated, includes trained and untrained personnel.
2. Data on unique individuals in the UK Regular Forces is unavailable prior to 1 April 2007 due to the change in recording of this information. Please see our background quality reports to explain the sources of our data; <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tri-service-personnel-bulletin-background-quality-reports>
3. Trained personnel comprise military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training.
 - a. Phase 1 training includes all new entry training to provide basic military skills.
 - b. Phase 2 training includes initial individual specialisation, sub-specialisation and technical training following Phase 1 training prior to joining the trained strength.

Unique individuals serving in the UK Volunteer Reserve Forces

Between 1 October 2012 and the 1 November 2014, there have been an estimated **40,240** individuals serving in the **Volunteer Reserve Forces**.

Of which we estimate there were **29,950 trained** individual personnel in the **Volunteer Reserve Forces** between 1 October 2012 and 1 November 2014.

Notes:

1. Volunteer Reserve comprises of mobilised reservists, High Readiness Reserves, Non-Regular Permanent Staff, Expeditionary Forces Institute, those serving on Full Time Reserve Service and Additional Duties Commitments.
2. Data on unique individuals serving in the Volunteer Reserves is unavailable prior to 1 October 2012.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it help to note that historic information on the strength, intake and outflow of the UK Armed Forces is available in the **Bulletin 2.01: Service Personnel** publication:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-personnel-bulletin-statistics-index>

Additionally you may find it help to note that historic information on the strength, intake and outflow of the UK Armed Forces is available in the **United Kingdom Defence Statistics (UKDS)** compendium

For UKDS 2010 – 2014; please see the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-defence-statistics-compendium-index>

For historic editions of this publication, please see the link below:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium>

Annual size of the UK Regular Forces

Available information on Combat Arms, Combat Support and Combat Service Support for Army and Royal Marines Commando personnel has been provided however this level of detail is only available for the entire time period for the Army.

The information required to carry out separation on the Royal Navy / Royal Marines populations was only available for the period following April 1999.

Strength of the UK Regular Forces as at 1 April each year, 1991-2014

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
All Services	298 060	293 440	274 850	254 490	233 340	221 870	210 820	210 140	208 640	207 610	205 650	204 680
Army	147 640	145 360	134 580	123 030	111 690	108 840	108 810	109 830	109 720	110 050	109 530	110 050
<i>Of which</i>												
Combat Arms	48 080	47 220	44 390	39 170	35 780	34 050	33 530	33 600	33 100	33 510	33 950	34 130
Combat Support	35 830	36 540	35 070	30 840	26 850	25 470	25 290	25 030	24 700	24 640	24 470	24 350
Combat Support Services	53 160	50 210	47 650	46 850	41 750	39 940	38 680	38 530	37 960	37 760	36 970	36 660
Royal Navy / Royal Marines	62 060	62 120	59 360	55 780	50 890	48 310	45 150	44 470	43 700	42 850	42 420	41 630
<i>Of which</i>												
Royal Navy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36 100	35 450	34 620
Royal Marines	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 750	6 970	7 010
RAF	88 370	85 960	80 910	75 680	70 750	64 720	56 870	55 840	55 210	54 720	53 700	53 000

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
All Services	206 920	207 020	201 100	195 850	190 670	186 910	188 600	191 710	186 360	179 800	170 710	159 630
Army	112 130	112 750	109 290	107 730	106 340	104 980	106 700	108 920	106 240	104 250	99 730	91 070
<i>Of which</i>												
Combat Arms	34 200	34 750	33 950	32 880	34 050	33 890	35 280	36 170	35 140	34 870	33 730	30 280
Combat Support	25 100	25 230	25 060	24 580	28 710	28 460	28 830	29 640	29 140	28 600	27 300	24 960
Combat Support Services	37 320	38 380	38 330	38 170	39 900	39 070	38 810	39 570	38 220	37 240	35 360	32 690
Royal Navy / Royal Marines	41 550	40 880	39 940	39 390	38 850	38 560	38 340	38 730	37 660	35 540	33 960	33 330
<i>Of which</i>												
Royal Navy	34 290	33 640	32 590	31 960	31 370	30 900	30 520	30 740	29 460	27 660	26 270	25 520
Royal Marines	7 260	7 240	7 350	7 430	7 480	7 650	7 820	7 990	8 200	7 890	7 690	7 810
<i>Of which</i>												
Combat Support	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	10	10	10	10	20
Combat Support Services	..	..	..	..	..	..	340	300	420	360	320	470
RAF	53 240	53 390	51 870	48 730	45 480	43 370	43 560	44 050	42 460	40 000	37 030	35 230

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes:

1. UK Regular Forces comprises trained and untrained Full-time personnel and excludes Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and reservists.
2. Definitions of Combat Arms, Combat Support and Combat Support Services for the Army have changed over the time period illustrated above but in the above they have been defined based on current definitions.
3. Definitions for the Marines are based on organisation and unit based indicators on the service personnel's JPA record.

Symbols

.. not available

Annual size of UK Volunteer Reserve Forces

Figures for Total Volunteer Reserve prior to 2012 do not include Volunteer Reserve personnel serving on FTRS contracts. Although data on the total number of FTRS personnel are available for this time period (reported as FTRS of unknown origin in Defence Statistics’ publications), it is not possible to determine whether these personnel have originated from the Volunteer or the Regular Reserve.

Historic figures on the Volunteer Reserve population are therefore **not methodologically consistent** with more recent figures presented below and as such not included in the table. However, historic versions of these figures are publically available in the **TSP 7 - UK Reserve Forces and Cadets** report available here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/strength-of-the-uk-reserve-forces-index>

Older versions of this publication and comparable figures published in the UK Defence Statistics compendium publication are available in the National Archives;

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/personnel/military/reserves-and-cadets-strengths>

Strength of the UK Reserve Forces as at 1 April each year, 2012-2014

	2012	2013	2014
Volunteer Reserve	31 310	30 370	28 860
Maritime Reserve	2 570	2 620	2 850
Army Volunteer Reserve	27 220	26 210	24 290
Royal Auxiliary Air Force	1 520	1 540	1 720

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes:

1. The Naval Service Volunteer Reserve is known as the Maritime Reserve and comprises trained and untrained RNR and RMR, and includes mobilised and High Readiness Reserve (HRR) personnel, plus personnel serving on Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and Additional Duties Commitment (ADC) contracts.
2. The Volunteer Reserve comprises trained and untrained Volunteer Reserve personnel. It includes the Army Reserve (Group A), which comprises mobilised and HRR, plus personnel serving on ADC contracts. Due to the nature of the Army ADC contracts, it is possible for personnel to be on both ADC and HRR contracts simultaneously. In such cases personnel would be counted in both the ADC and HRR totals, but would only be counted once in Volunteer Reserve, Officers, and Other Ranks totals. Volunteer Reserve also includes FTRS, Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI), and support and training staff for the UOTC.
3. The RAF Volunteer Reserve comprises trained and untrained personnel from the Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF) and includes mobilised and HRR personnel, plus personnel serving on FTRS and ADC contracts.
4. These figures are currently published as estimates in current Defence Statistics (Tri-Service) publications.

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)