

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION ON THE CESSATION OF UK DEFENCE STATISTICS COMPENDIUM AND FACTSHEET

SUMMARY

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently publishes the [UK Defence Statistics compendium](#) (UKDS) on an annual basis, accompanied by a Factsheet. We are now seeking external users' views on ceasing publication of the UKDS Compendium and the Factsheet.

BACKGROUND

UKDS is the annual statistics compendium of the MOD which, until 2009, was printed out, bound and posted to users. UKDS was first published in 1992 (its predecessor was known as the Statement of Defence Estimates), with the Factsheet introduced in 1993 providing a pocket-sized summary of the key tables and charts in UKDS. In 2009, UKDS became a web-only document and the Factsheet was provided as an accompanying PDF file.

Following the recommendations from the UK Statistics Authority in their recent assessment, and discussions with internal and external users at the National and Official Statistics User Consultation Meetings in May 2013, a number of format changes were implemented to the 2013 edition of UKDS. This allowed information on various Defence-related topics to be published as soon as the data was available, rather than waiting for all the other chapters to be completed and published together, as was the case with previous editions of UKDS.

The reformatted UKDS compendium was released on 21 November 2013, according to arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. It provided highlights and long term trends identified from previously published statistical releases on a number of Defence-related areas, including: finance and economics; personnel numbers; health of the Armed Forces; equipment; search and rescue; surveys of personnel; land holdings and service family accommodation.

In 2014, the Factsheet was provided as an Excel file to further reflect the changing nature of the way users access statistics, away from static and hardcopy publications.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE

As all the statistics published in the UKDS Compendium and Factsheet have already been released in current Official Statistics publications, there is little benefit to the continued publication of either UKDS or the Factsheet. Therefore, we no longer believe this is the best way of producing information that can be automatically updated.

One benefit of the UKDS Compendium is the ability for users of MOD statistics to navigate to all MOD official statistics from one document. This remains possible from the [Statistics by Topic](#) document on GOV.UK, and the MOD will look to improve the navigation to statistical reports generally on the [Statistics at MOD](#) page on GOV.UK.

In addition, MOD is developing additional products that better present the key summary statistics, such as infographics.

TIMINGS

This consultation will run for four weeks, from 16th November to 13th December. This consultation complies with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultations.

RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

If you have any comments on the proposed changes, these should be submitted to:

Email: DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Consult@mod.uk

Post:

Defence Statistics (WDS),
Ministry of Defence,
Floor 3 Zone K,
Main Building,
Horse Guards Avenue,
London, SW1A 2HB.

When sending your comments please include contact details (your name and either email address, postal address or telephone number) so that we can follow up if clarification is needed.