

# **Response Document**

## **Review of Military Formations, Vessels and Aircraft**

### **National Statistics**

#### **Introduction**

On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) opened a public consultation with users to identify whether the definitions, terminology and coverage of Formations, Vessels and Aircraft still met users' needs and if not, how the publication can be improved to better meet these needs.

#### **Consultation Outcome**

Five responses were received from users during the consultation period which ended on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016. These responses have helped to shape the new format and content of the publication, details of which can be found below.

To better reflect the changes to the publication, its name will change to 'UK Armed Forces Equipment and Formations'.

#### **Definitions and terminology**

##### **1. Re-categorisation of equipment statistics**

Whilst users agreed with the current categorisation of equipment by Service (to reflect their current ownership), users stated that the presentation of statistics by 'land', 'sea' and 'air' would also be useful. Based on this feedback, and particularly with a view to provide more clarity on aircraft numbers, equipment (and formations) statistics will now be presented by 'land', 'sea' and 'air'.

##### **2. Use of operational terms such as 'Forward Available Fleet' and 'in service'**

A variety of operational terms are used to categorise equipment in requests for information. The publication previously provided the numbers of vessels which were 'operational' or 'undergoing refit' and for aircraft, 'Forward Available Fleet' figures for each Service.

Users supported the differentiation between numbers of vessels/pieces of equipment at a particular operational status (e.g. those in service) and the total number of that vessel/piece of equipment. To maintain consistency across the publication, the number of vessels and aircraft which are 'in service' will be published alongside the total figure. In service figures are not recorded for land equipment. As the definition of in service varies across platforms and between Services.

#### **Coverage**

##### **1. Addition of land equipment statistics**

As the consultation identified demand for these statistics, following similar findings from the internal review, some land equipment statistics (details below) will be included in this publication.

One response to the consultation requested information on numbers of equipment stored and disposed of, whilst another requested statistics on all land equipment.

The aim of the publication is to provide a yearly snapshot of current equipment available to the UK Armed Forces. As the term 'land equipment' covers a very broad range of vehicles and equipment, providing information on all land equipment in one publication would be a complex

and time-consuming task. To capture the current numbers of land equipment efficiently, land equipment statistics will be limited and published under the following categories: Armoured Fighting Vehicles (i.e. Tanks, Protected Mobility Vehicles and Armoured Personnel Carriers, Artillery and Engineering Equipment (e.g. bridging vehicles)).

## **2. Demand for statistics on formations in the UK Armed Forces**

The consultation demonstrated a demand for numbers of military formations in the UK Armed Forces and so these will continue to be published. Following a review of the formations statistics previously published, the publication will now also provide a more comprehensive list that better reflects the current organisation of formations across the Services.

Tables will provide the numbers of formations based on whether they primarily operate as land, sea or air-based components of each of the Services. For example, whilst the majority of Army formations will be published in the 'land' table, formations in the Army Air Corps will be published in the 'air' table. This differs from the previous layout of the publication which published formations statistics by Service.

### **Next publication date:**

UK Armed Forces Equipment and Formations 2016 is due to be published on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016.