

## **Response Document**

### **Consultation: Proposed cessation of UK Defence Statistics Compendium and Factsheet**

On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) opened a public consultation with users about the proposed cessation of the [UK Defence Statistics \(UKDS\) Compendium](#) and Factsheet.

#### **Consultation Outcome**

Four responses were received during the month long consultation period which ended on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Two responses objected to the proposed cessation, one response supported the cessation on a conditional basis and the fourth supported the proposal. A summary of the feedback received is provided in Annex A.

After considering the objections, it has been decided that the publication of the UKDS Compendium and Factsheet will cease. The issues raised in the consultation are summarised below and are accompanied by an official response from the MOD.

#### **1. Continued publication of statistics in UKDS Compendium and Factsheet**

The UKDS Compendium and Factsheet are compiled using statistics from Official and National Statistics publications that have already been released throughout the year. All of these publications are available via the [Statistics at MOD page](#) on GOV.UK. No statistical information will be lost as a result of the cessation of the Compendium and Factsheet as neither of these publications contains new statistics.

The MOD continues to review its suite of Official Statistics to ensure that they are meeting the demand of its users during the annual statistical planning process.

#### **2. Navigation to MOD statistics on GOV.UK**

To improve the navigation and signposting of our statistics for users, the MOD is reviewing the layout of its GOV.UK statistics pages. This will largely involve changes to pages contained within [Statistics at MOD](#). Users can access this page via the [MOD homepage](#) by clicking on the 'Statistics at MOD' link under 'Corporate Information' or by using the GOV.UK Search tool.

#### **3. Presentation of statistics and infographics**

As well as improving navigation, staff resource used to compile UKDS will be invested in a number of current and future projects focused on further improving the presentation of our statistics. This will include more visualisations and infographics, and will therefore make statistics more accessible to the general public.

#### **4. Production of a statistics 'headline' page and web hits**

UK Defence in Numbers, first published in October 2015 provides users with a snapshot of the UK's defence capability in numbers. The booklet contains a number of infographics and headline figures on a number of defence-related topics including finance and personnel.

Defence in Numbers received nearly twice as many web hits as UKDS in the five months following their respective publication dates. This suggests that Defence in Numbers is successful as a summary report than the latest version of UKDS.

## **Annex A – Summary of Feedback Received**

### **1. Royal United Services Institute (two responses)**

Stated that they were not enthusiastic about the proposal. Commented on the convenience of presenting a range of statistics in one place on an annual basis, and how having one easy-to-find publication such as UKDS could encourage study in the Defence sector.

Requested further justification for the proposed cessation and questioned whether the cost of assembly is significant, and how much reference/use of the compendium there is.

### **2. Defence Medical Services, MOD**

Had no objections to the proposals.

### **3. Individual, External**

Had no objections to the changes proposed, subject to a number of points including: the MOD should continue to publish the same statistics contained in UKDS; the presentation of statistics should be accessible to general readers; statistics should be easily navigable on the MOD website; and there should be a statistics headline page summarising key data.