



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom
Telephone : +44 (0)20 721 89000

Our Reference: [REDACTED]



Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated [REDACTED] in which you requested the following information:

- 1) How many Muslim persons have served or are currently serving in the British Military each year since 2010- 2016.
- 2) Number of people from ethnic minorities (Muslims) currently serving the British Military
- 3) Number of male and female from ethnic minorities has applied to join the British Military each year since 2010 to 2016.
- 4) How many Muslim persons were successful and unsuccessful to join the British Military each year since 2010 to 2016. Is there a specific/main reason of being unsuccessful? If yes please state.
- 5) Total number of British persons who have served or are currently serving in the British Military each year since 2010- 2016
- 6) Total Number of male and female British persons who has applied to join the British Military each year since 2010 to 2016.
- 7) Total number of persons who were successful and unsuccessful to join the British Military each year since 2010 to 2016. Is there a specific/main reason of not being successful? If yes please state.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds some information in scope of this request. Questions 1, 2, and 5 are exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. It is already in the public domain at the following links:

- [Biannual Diversity Statistics](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525719/Biannual_Diversity_Statistics_1Apr16_final.xlsx)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525719/Biannual_Diversity_Statistics_1Apr16_final.xlsx
- [Personnel Bulletin 2.01](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/357724/tri_service_personnel_bulletin_2_01_2014.pdf)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/357724/tri_service_personnel_bulletin_2_01_2014.pdf

Information regarding Questions 3 and 6 is available in the annex attached to this e-mail. No information is held regarding Question 4 as Muslim is recorded as a religion rather than an ethnicity. Declaration of religion is not mandatory for Armed Forces personnel. Any statistics only relate to personnel who have made a declaration. Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find the following links useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-index> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-diversity-dashboard-index>

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) information on intake (the number of personnel joining the UK Regulars) is available in the links above. Please note intake figures do not include those who were successful in the application process but declined to take up employment.

There is no specific reason why a person would be unsuccessful in joining the UK Armed Forces, each case is different and therefore no specific information is held.

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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely,
Defence People

[REDACTED]

Number of male and female from ethnic minorities that have applied to join the UK Armed Forces each year since 2010 to 2016

Declaration of BAME Status

| | Royal Navy | |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Year | Regular Service (Female) | Regular Service (Male) |
| 2010/2011 | 150 | 660 |
| 2011/2012 | 80 | 450 |
| 2012/2013 | 90 | 470 |
| 2013/2014 | 70 | 440 |
| 2014/2015 | 70 | 520 |
| 2015/2016 | 100 | 540 |

Declaration of BAME Status

| | Army | |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Year | Regular Service (Female) | Regular Service (Male) |
| 2010/2011 | 890 | 4,300 |
| 2011/2012 | 1,020 | 5,030 |
| 2012/2013 | 800 | 4,180 |
| 2013/2014 | 630 | 2,920 |
| 2014/2015 | 830 | 4,070 |
| 2015/2016 | 940 | 4,590 |

Declaration of BAME Status

| | Royal Air Force | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Year | Regular Service (Female) | Regular Service (Male) |
| 2010 | 150 | 800 |
| 2011 | 170 | 890 |
| 2012 | 170 | 920 |
| 2013 | 250 | 1,390 |
| 2014 | 270 | 1,350 |
| 2015 | 280 | 1,220 |
| 2016 (Up to 31 March 16) | 70 | 360 |

Notes

1. In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, the figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 10, where “~” denotes a number less than or equal to five. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

2. Data is based on applications made by UK and non-UK British Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals.

3. Data includes both officer and Other Ranks.

4. Individuals are under no obligation to declare or specify their ethnicity. Any information provided would simply be those individuals who have chosen to declare.

5. RAF Data is based on calendar years

6. Army applications are for each Recruiting Year over the period 01 Apr 10 – 31 Mar 16

7. Data is based on regular Service applicants only.

[REDACTED]

Total Number of male and female British persons who have applied to join the UK Armed Forces each year since 2010 to 2016.

| | Royal Navy | |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Year | Regular Service (Female) | Regular Service (Male) |
| 2010/2011 | 2,270 | 14,110 |
| 2011/2012 | 1,490 | 10,250 |
| 2012/2013 | 1,370 | 10,400 |
| 2013/2014 | 1,410 | 9,730 |
| 2014/2015 | 1,520 | 11,220 |
| 2015/2016 | 1,740 | 11,980 |

| | British Army | |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Year | Regular Service (Female) | Regular Service (Male) |
| 2010/2011 | 1,170 | 5,450 |
| 2011/2012 | 1,360 | 6,600 |
| 2012/2013 | 1,080 | 5,510 |
| 2013/2014 | 1,020 | 4,660 |
| 2014/2015 | 1,800 | 7,870 |
| 2015/2016 | 2,100 | 8,650 |

| | Royal Air Force | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Year | Regular Service (Female) | Regular Service (Male) |
| 2010 | 4220 | 19,350 |
| 2011 | 3,190 | 14,800 |
| 2012 | 3,050 | 14,150 |
| 2013 | 3,770 | 18,700 |
| 2014 | 3,840 | 17,620 |
| 2015 | 3,460 | 15,830 |
| 2016 (Up to 31 March 16) | 1,060 | 4,990 |

Notes

1. In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, the figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 10, where “~” denotes a number less than or equal to five. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.
2. Applications to the Royal Air Force are broken down calendar year from 2010 to 31 March 2016.
3. Data includes non-UK applicants as it is not possible to break down fully by UK-Non-UK status.
4. Data is based on regular Service applicants only.