

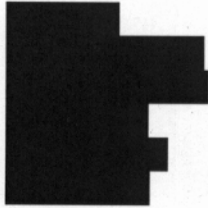


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6 July 2015

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 19 June requesting the following information:

- 1. The number of horses on army strength at present.*
- 2. The number of tanks in the army. If this is not possible the number of regiments equipped with tanks.*
- 3. The number of Infantry Battalions (Regular Army) as at present and the number as at 2000*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at Section 21 (information accessible to the applicant by other means) of the FOIA.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) an internet link to the information you have asked for in the first part of your request is below. As I do not know if you have access to the internet, an excerpt of information from the web page is also included.

The information answering parts one and two of your request was released in answer to a parliamentary question in February and is available at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-02-09/HL4781/>

The Army currently has 485 horses, serving in the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, the Household Division and at the Defence Animal Centre. The total number of Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks is 227.


A total of 141 Challenger variants are also in service. There are 75 armoured repair and recovery vehicles, 33 Titan armoured bridge layers and 33 Trojan combat engineering vehicles.

In addition to Challenger, the Army also operates a large number of other armoured fighting vehicles, including a combined total of over 1,500 Warriors and Bulldogs.

In answer to the third part of your request, in 2000 there were 38 Infantry Battalions; currently there are 30. These figures do not include Public Duty Incremental Companies or the Royal Gurkha Rifles battalions.

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>.


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