



Ministry  
of Defence

Army Secretariat  
Army Headquarters  
IDL 24 Blenheim Building  
Marlborough Lines  
Andover  
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ  
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2015/11414/13/04/76211

13 January 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 11 December requesting the following information:

- 1. The most up-to-date figures for the number of service men and women currently serving as a regular soldier or officer in the British Army who have stated their faith as Muslim. I am not concerned with the numbers regarding the Army Reserve. Could you please provide me the figure for the number of Muslim regular service personnel?*
- 2. Further to this, could you also tell me how many recruits to the regular army in the years 2014 and 2015 stated they were Muslim on their application papers. Further to that could you tell me how many Muslim recruits successfully applied to the regular army in the years 2014 and 2015.*

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

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 and explanatory notes can be found below.

As at 1 November 2015 there were 445 Regular Army Personnel with a recorded religion of Muslim. This figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

The table below shows the number of regular recruits into the Army whose religion on entry, or at the nearest available point, is recorded as Muslim. The small number of recruits who joined then subsequently changed their religion on the personnel database to Muslim within the first three months of service have not been included. The figures in the table have been rounded to 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Religion on entry into the British Army	
Years	Total Recruits
2014	20
2015	20

All figures have been provided by Defence Statistics (Army). Rounding of statistical data is necessary, as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity; it also improves the clarity of output and conveys an appropriate level of precision to users.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat