



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)
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Reference: FOI 2015 06956

[Redacted]

Date: 1 September 2015

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 5th August 2015 requesting the following information:

“Please could you tell me the number of servicemen and women currently serving in the Armed Forces that are under the age of 18 years old? Specifically what is the current number serving in the armed forces as of January 1st 2015 onward?

If the figures for the above time frame are not possible to obtain could you please tell me the most up-to-date figures?

If possible could you break this down by branch, for example RAF, Army etc?”

We are 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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

This information is exempt under **Section 22** of the Freedom of Information Act and is subject to a Public Interest Test because the Service level breakdown is intended for future publication.

Under **Section 16** (Duty to provide advice and assistance), please see below the information you have requested as at 1 October 2014.

UK Regular Forces¹ personnel under the age of 18 as at 1 October 2014

All Services	RNRM ²	Army	RAF
1 900	120	1 750	30

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes

1. UK Regular Forces comprises trained and untrained Full-time personnel and excludes Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and reservists.
2. RNRM comprises Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel.

Rounding

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

Please be advised that the All Services Total for UK Regular Forces personnel under the age of 18 as at 1 April 2015 is available in **Table 4 - Age group representation of UK Regular Forces by Officers and Other Ranks** in our Biannual Diversity publication at the link below.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/430185/mil_diversity_dashboard_report_apr15_update.pdf

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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering **Military Personnel** and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)