



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Telephone : +44 (0)20 721 89000

Our Reference: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 6 February 2016 in which you requested the following information:

Can I ask how many honorary members of the armed forces a) Royal Navy/Royal Marines b) British Army c) Royal Air Force are there? By "honorary", I mean civilians granted a commissioned (officer) rank although they have never officially served in any of the three main branches.

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that the MOD does hold some information within the scope of your request; this is provided in the attached Annex.

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

Number of Honorary Ranks Naval Service (Royal Navy and Royal Marines)

| Honorary Rank | Number |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Vice Admiral | 2 |
| Commodore | 1 |
| Captain | 9 |
| Commander | 9 |
| Lieutenant Commander | 3 |
| Chaplain | 2 |
| Colonel (Royal Marines) | 4 |
| Lieutenant Colonel (Royal Marines) | 2 |

Number of Honorary Ranks British Army

| Honorary Rank | Number |
|---|---------------|
| Colonel ¹ | 61 |
| Honorary Regimental Colonel | 1 |
| Royal Honorary Colonel (Army Reserve Units) | 5 |
| Honorary Catering Advisor | 1 |

1 - Data includes members of the Army Cadet Force

Number of Honorary Ranks Royal Air Force

| Honorary Rank | Number |
|---|---------------|
| Air Commodore (Royal Auxiliary Air Force) | 15 |
| Group Captain (Air Cadet Organisation) | 3 |

