



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
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FOI 2015/06989

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[REDACTED]  
Via email: [REDACTED]

7 September 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information – Final Response

Thank you for your inquiry dated 7 August requesting the following information:

*Could I have the size of the royal marines by rank per unit in march 2014 for example (40 commando - 123x marine 45x lance corporal)*

Your inquiry is being considered as a Freedom of Information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. However the MOD is withholding the information under the exemption at Section 26(1)(b) : Capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant forces.

As the exemption under Section 26 (Defence) is classed as a qualified exemption, the Department has considered where the balance of the public interest lies in either disclosing or withholding this information. As this information relates to details of historical manning levels for the various units of the Royal Marines (RM) its release would lead to an accurate estimate of availability and therefore an indication of the capability of individual units and could result in a loss of tactical advantage, and place in the public domain knowledge that could assist potential adversaries in times of conflict as well as potentially risking the compromise of current or future operations conducted by UK Armed Forces.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I am able to inform you that the department regularly publishes the 'RM/RM Service Personnel Situation Report' on the .gov.uk website as part of the Government Transparency Agenda. You can access the RN/RM data for March 2014 via this link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/301400/2014\\_0403 - RN RM Monthly Situation Report March 2014.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/301400/2014_0403_-_RN_RM_Monthly_Situation_Report_March_2014.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 this office 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](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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section