



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our reference: FOI2016/01145

xxxxxxxxxxxx

request-xxxxxxxxxxxx@whatdotheyknow.com

23 February 2016

Dear xxxxxxxxxxxx,

Thank you for your email of 26 January 2016 requesting the following information:

the most recent number of veterans in the United Kingdom
information regarding who is entitled to be a veteran in the UK
(policy?)
the number of soldiers who became veterans in 2015

I am writing to confirm that we are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The most recent study of the number of veterans in the UK was published on 17 November 2014. The Royal British Legion UK Household Survey of the Ex-Service Community estimated that there are some 2.83 million veterans in the UK.

The Government's current definition for a veteran is anyone who has served in the Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve) for more than one day.

The Ministry of Defence does hold figures for the number of soldiers who became veterans in 2015. However, under Section 21 of the FOI Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to supply information that is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. The figures for Armed Forces Personnel (including Army) who left Service in 2015 is already released in information published on the Gov.uk website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-index>.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 Compliance Rights 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat