



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)  
Ministry Of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Telephone [MOD]: +44 (0)20 7807 8896  
Facsimile [MOD]: +44 (0)20 7218 0969  
E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk

Reference: **FOI 2015 09245**

[REDACTED]

Date: **19 November 2015**

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 requesting the following information:

“The ethnic breakdown, in percentages and in absolute numbers, for officers in the British military, with separate values for each of the Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force branches.”

Following further communications on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 the request was clarified to be:

“In particular, I was wondering if you could give me this information further broken down between the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force in terms of percentages of different BME groups that these officers come from?”

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 clarified request is held. You can find the answer to your request in Table 1 and via the links below.

**Table 1: UK Regular Forces<sup>1</sup> by ethnic origin as at 1 October 2014**

	All Services		Royal Navy/ Royal Marines		Army		Royal Air Force	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total UK Regular Strength</b>	<b>156 630</b>		<b>32 900</b>		<b>89 200</b>		<b>34 520</b>	
of which Officers	27 680		6 820		13 120		7 740	
of which BAME	630	0.4%	120	0.4%	350	0.4%	160	0.5%
of which Mixed	285	0.2%	60	0.2%	160	0.2%	70	0.2%
Asian	170	0.1%	25	0.1%	100	0.1%	45	0.1%
Black	105	0.1%	20	0.1%	60	0.1%	30	0.1%
Other	75	~	15	~	35	~	20	0.1%
White	26 350	16.9%	6 620	20.2%	12 710	14.3%	7 030	20.7%
Unknown	700		90		60		550	

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes

1. UK Regular Forces comprises trained and untrained Full-time personnel but does not include Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and Reservists.
2. Ethnicity is a non-mandatory field on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) database.
3. Percentages relate to the Total UK Regular Strength, are calculated using unrounded figures and exclude those with unknown ethnicity.
4. Unknown ethnicity includes those with an unrecorded ethnic origin and those who chose not to declare.
5. Mixed comprises Mixed Black African and White, Mixed Asian and White, Mixed Black Caribbean and White and other Mixed Ethnic Backgrounds. Asian comprises Asian Bangladeshi, Asian Pakistani, Asian Indian and other Asian Backgrounds, and reflecting changes made in the 2011 Census, now includes Chinese. Black comprises Black Caribbean, Black African and other Black Backgrounds. Other is defined as "other ethnic background".

Rounding

- a. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, though numbers ending in a 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias, with the exception of those in the detailed BAME categories. The detailed BAME categories are rounded to the nearest 5 so as not to obscure the data.
- b. Totals and sub-totals are rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.
- c. ~ denotes a value less than 0.05% that has been rounded to 0.

Under Section 16 (duty to provide advice and assistance), some of the information you have requested is available in our regular publications. These are available as follows:

- Statistics on the strength of UK Regular Forces by Service and Ethnic Origin (Tables 2.01.05 and 2.01.06):  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/357724/tri\\_service\\_personnel\\_bulletin\\_2\\_01\\_2014.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/357724/tri_service_personnel_bulletin_2_01_2014.pdf)
- Statistics on the strength of UK Regular Forces by Ethnic Origin (Table 7a):  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/426880/QPR\\_Apr2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/426880/QPR_Apr2015.pdf)
- Statistics on Ethnic Origin and nationality representation of UK Regular Forces by Service (Table 2):  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/430185/mil\\_diversity\\_dashboard\\_report\\_apr15\\_update.pdf](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](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)