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Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 requesting the following information:

**“i) Total UK Armed Forces Strengths from 1989 - 2016 (per year) and ii) The same data broken down into, Army, Royal Marines, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force”**

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that all information in scope of your request is held. Under Section 21 of the FOIA, the relevant data are readily accessible via the following links.

- UK Regular strengths for each year
  - from 1945 to 2000 are available in the UK Defence Statistics (UKDS) Compendium 2000 edition, available at:  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/2000/2000.pdf#page=68>
  - from 2001 to 2006 are available in the UKDS 2006 edition, available at:  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/2006/2006.pdf#page=48>
  - from 2007 to 2012 are available in the UKDS 2012 edition, available at:  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/2012/chapter-2-personnel/2012-chapter-2-personnel.pdf#page=10>
  - from 2012 to 2016 are available in Table 1 of the Monthly Service personnel statistics (MSPS) workbook, available at:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/552813/Monthly\\_Service\\_Personnel\\_Statistics\\_1August16.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/552813/Monthly_Service_Personnel_Statistics_1August16.xlsx)

- Reserves strengths for each year
  - from 1989 to 1994 are available in the UKDS 1994 edition, available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/1994/1994.pdf#page=37>
  - from 1995 to 2000 are available in the UKDS Compendium 2000 edition, available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/2000/2000.pdf#page=45>
  - from 2001 to 2006 are available in the UKDS 2006 edition, available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/2006/2006.pdf#page=65>
  - from 2007 to 2012 are available in the UKDS 2012 edition, available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/2012/chapter-2-personnel/2012-chapter-2-personnel.pdf#page=27>
  - for 2013 are available in the “Total Reserve” Table of the UK Reserve Forces and Cadets publication, available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/280402/2013.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/280402/2013.xls)
  - from 2014 to 2016 are available in Table 8a of the Monthly Service personnel statistics (MSPS) workbook, available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/552813/Monthly\\_Service\\_Personnel\\_Statistics\\_1August16.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/552813/Monthly_Service_Personnel_Statistics_1August16.xlsx)

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, you may find the following links to be of use:

- Current MOD Personnel statistics publications <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-national-and-official-statistics-by-topic/mod-national-and-official-statistics-by-topic#personnel-statistics>
- Archived editions of the UK Defence Statistics publication <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium>

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, 2nd 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)