



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 2015/11845

27 January 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 29th December 2015 requesting the following information:

- “ 1) At present, how many Service Personnel are there in the Armed Forces? If available, please also provide a break down of this total between Regular Service personnel, Reserves and Gurkhas?
2) At present, how many Service Personnel in the Armed Forces are foreign nationals? If available, please also provide a break down of this total between Regular Service Personnel, Reserves and Gurkhas?
3) Which countries are these Armed Forces Service Personnel citizens of? If available, please also provide a break down of this total between Regular Service personnel, Reserves and Gurkhas?
4) Since 1 January 2011, for each calendar year, how many foreign nationals were recruited to the Armed Forces? If available, please also provide a break down of these figures into Regulars, Reserves and Gurkhas?
5) Since 1 January 2011, what percentage of the total number of Armed Forces service personnel (including Regulars, Reserves and Gurkhas) did foreign nationals make up each year? If available, please provide a break down of these figures into Regulars, Reserves and Gurkhas?”*

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 some information in scope of your request is held.

Section 44(1)(a) has been applied as the disclosure of some of the information is prohibited by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Defence Statistics release Diversity Statistics as an Official Statistics publication. In accordance with the Code of Practice for the release of National and Official Statistics, as set out in the 2007 Act, we are unable to provide the data for a Nationality data for the full calendar year 2015 prior to the next statistical release scheduled for 09:30 on 26th May 2016. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information. Under **Section 16** (duty to provide advice and assistance) we have provided data up until 30th September 2015 for Question 4 and 1 October 2015 for Question 5, as reported in our Diversity Statistics Publication.

The information in Question 3 regarding where “*Service Personnel are Citizens of*”, is not held by the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of Defence does hold data on the Nationality of Service personnel. This data has been provided under **Section 16** (duty to provide advice and assistance).

Please find the information you requested in the attached MS Excel File "FOI 2015 11845.xls". Table 1 shows the information requested in Question 1, 2, and 3. Table 2 shows the information requested in Questions 4 and Table 3 shows the information requested in Question 5.

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, SW1A2HB (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

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

UK Regulars², Future Reserves 2020 Volunteer Reserve³ and Gurkhas⁴ by Foreign Nationality⁴ as at 1 October 2015

Total¹	188 120
of which Foreign Nationals	10 270
of which Afghan	~
of which Antiguan	~
of which Australian	100
of which Bahamian	~
of which Bangladeshi	30
of which Barbadian	10
of which Belizean	50
of which Botswanan	20
of which Cameroonian	130
of which Canadian	70
of which Citizen of Fiji	1 530
of which Citizen of Seychelles	20
of which Citizen of Sri Lanka	10
of which Citizen of St Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis	~
of which Cypriot	~
of which Danish	~
of which Dominican	30
of which Filipino	~
of which Foreign	~
of which French	~
of which Gambian	210
of which Ghanaian	710
of which Grenadian	130
of which Guyanese	20
of which Indian	190
of which Irish	640
of which Italian	~
of which Jamaican	360
of which Kenyan	210
of which Lesotho	~
of which Lithuanian	~
of which Malawian	160
of which Malaysian	10
of which Maltese	10
of which Mauritanian	~
of which Mauritian	60
of which Mozambican	~
of which Nepalese	3 500
of which New Zealander	80
of which Nigerian	250
of which Pakistani	20
of which Papua New Guinean	~
of which Polish	~
of which Portuguese	~
of which Qatari	~
of which Rwandan	~
of which Sierra Leonean	30
of which Singaporean	~
of which South African	630
of which South Korean	~
of which St Lucian	210
of which Swazi	10
of which Tanzanian	10
of which Thai	~
of which Tongan	10
of which Trinidad and Tobago citizen	70
of which Ugandan	50
of which Ukrainian	~
of which United States citizen	~
of which Vincentian	430
of which Yugoslavian	~
of which Zambian	40
of which Zimbabwean	210

Notes

1. Total includes UK Regulars, Future Reserve 2020 Volunteer Reserves personnel and Gurkhas.
2. UK Regulars are full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), High Readiness Reserve (HRR) and Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) personnel. Unless otherwise stated, includes trained and untrained personnel.
3. The Future Reserve 2020 (FR20) Volunteer Reserve includes Volunteer Reserves, High Readiness Reserves (HRR) and volunteer reserves who are serving on Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and Additional Duties Commitment (ADC). Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI), Sponsored Reserves and University Officer Cadets are excluded.
4. Foreign Nationals consists of personnel with a non-UK Nationality. UK Nationalities include Bermudan, British, British Commonwealth, British Hong Kong, British Overseas Territory Citizen, British Singapore, Falkland Islander, Cayman Islander, Gibraltarian, Montserratian and St Helenian.

Rounding

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias. Figures below 5 denoted by ~, zero denoted by -.

Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

UK Regular²	152 150
of which Foreign Nationals	7 030
<i>of which Antiguan</i>	~
<i>of which Australian</i>	70
<i>of which Bahamian</i>	~
<i>of which Bangladeshi</i>	30
<i>of which Barbadian</i>	10
<i>of which Belizean</i>	50
<i>of which Botswanan</i>	20
<i>of which Cameroonian</i>	120
<i>of which Canadian</i>	50
<i>of which Citizen of Fiji</i>	1 500
<i>of which Citizen of Seychelles</i>	10
<i>of which Citizen of Sri Lanka</i>	10
<i>of which Citizen of St Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis</i>	~
<i>of which Cypriot</i>	~
<i>of which Dominican</i>	30
<i>of which Filipino</i>	~
<i>of which French</i>	~
<i>of which Gambian</i>	190
<i>of which Ghanaian</i>	680
<i>of which Grenadian</i>	130
<i>of which Guyanese</i>	20
<i>of which Indian</i>	170
<i>of which Irish</i>	550
<i>of which Italian</i>	~
<i>of which Jamaican</i>	310
<i>of which Kenyan</i>	200
<i>of which Lesotho</i>	~
<i>of which Malawian</i>	160
<i>of which Malaysian</i>	10
<i>of which Maltese</i>	10
<i>of which Mauritanian</i>	~
<i>of which Mauritian</i>	50
<i>of which Mozambican</i>	~
<i>of which Nepalese</i>	730
<i>of which New Zealander</i>	60
<i>of which Nigerian</i>	220
<i>of which Pakistani</i>	20
<i>of which Papua New Guinean</i>	~
<i>of which Polish</i>	~
<i>of which Rwandan</i>	~
<i>of which Sierra Leonean</i>	30
<i>of which Singaporean</i>	~
<i>of which South African</i>	600
<i>of which St Lucian</i>	210
<i>of which Swazi</i>	10
<i>of which Tanzanian</i>	10
<i>of which Thai</i>	~
<i>of which Tongan</i>	10
<i>of which Trinidad and Tobago citizen</i>	70
<i>of which Ugandan</i>	50
<i>of which United States citizen</i>	~
<i>of which Vincentian</i>	420
<i>of which Yugoslavian</i>	~
<i>of which Zambian</i>	30
<i>of which Zimbabwean</i>	190

Gurkhas⁴	2 690
of which Foreign Nationals	2 690
<i>of which Nepalese</i>	2 690
Future Reserves 2020 Volunteer Reserve³	33 280
of which Foreign Nationals	540
<i>of which Afghan</i>	~
<i>of which Australian</i>	30
<i>of which Bangladeshi</i>	~
<i>of which Botswanan</i>	~
<i>of which Cameroonian</i>	10
<i>of which Canadian</i>	20
<i>of which Citizen of Fiji</i>	30
<i>of which Citizen of Seychelles</i>	~
<i>of which Citizen of Sri Lanka</i>	10
<i>of which Danish</i>	~
<i>of which Dominican</i>	~
<i>of which Filipino</i>	~
<i>of which Foreign</i>	~
<i>of which Gambian</i>	10
<i>of which Ghanaian</i>	30
<i>of which Grenadian</i>	~
<i>of which Guyanese</i>	~
<i>of which Indian</i>	20
<i>of which Irish</i>	90
<i>of which Jamaican</i>	40
<i>of which Kenyan</i>	10
<i>of which Lithuanian</i>	~
<i>of which Malawian</i>	~
<i>of which Malaysian</i>	~
<i>of which Maltese</i>	~
<i>of which Mauritian</i>	~
<i>of which Nepalese</i>	80
<i>of which New Zealander</i>	20
<i>of which Nigerian</i>	30
<i>of which Pakistani</i>	~
<i>of which Polish</i>	~
<i>of which Portuguese</i>	~
<i>of which Qatari</i>	~
<i>of which Sierra Leonean</i>	~
<i>of which Singaporean</i>	~
<i>of which South African</i>	30
<i>of which South Korean</i>	~
<i>of which St Lucian</i>	~
<i>of which Trinidad and Tobago citizen</i>	~
<i>of which Ugandan</i>	~
<i>of which Ukrainian</i>	~
<i>of which United States citizen</i>	~
<i>of which Vincentian</i>	~
<i>of which Zambian</i>	~
<i>of which Zimbabwean</i>	20

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Intake into UK Regulars², Future Reserves 2020 Volunteer Reserve³ and Gurkha⁴ by Foreign Nationality⁷ each calendar year 2015

	01 Jan 2011 to 31 Dec 2011	01 Jan 2012 to 31 Dec 2012	01 Jan 2013 to 31 Dec 2013	01 Jan 2014 to 31 Dec 2014	01 Jan 2015 to 30/09/2015 ⁸
Total¹	-	-	17 460	19 510	19 770
of which Foreign Nationals	-	-	1 010	730	750
UK Regular²	15 040	15 440	13 530	13 200	12 040
of which Foreign Nationals	870	1 040	770	470	320
Gurkhas⁶	190	190	150	140	240
of which Foreign Nationals	190	190	150	140	240
Future Reserves 2020 Volunteer Reserve³	-	-	3 780	6 170	7 480
of which Foreign Nationals	-	-	80	130	190

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes

- Total includes UK Regulars, Future Reserves 2020 Volunteer Reserve personnel and Gurkhas.
- UK Regulars are full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), High Readiness Reserve (HRR) and Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) personnel. Unless otherwise stated, includes trained and untrained personnel.
- The Future Reserve 2020 (FR20) Volunteer Reserve includes volunteer reserves, High Readiness Reserves (HRR) and those volunteer reserves serving on Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and Additional Duties Commitment (ADC). Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI), Sponsored Reserves and University Officer Cadets are excluded.
- FR20 programme monitoring intake statistics are derived by month-on-month comparisons of strength and include movements between the Maritime Reserve, Army Reserve and RAF Reserves. These figures comprise of intake into the FR20 trained and untrained populations and include personnel coming from the Regular Armed Forces, or any other reserve population not included within FR20.
- Centrally held data dates back to October 2012 for the Maritime Reserve and RAF Reserves and April 2012 for the Army Reserve. As a result intake statistics by financial year are unavailable prior to financial year 2013/14 for the Maritime Reserve and RAF Reserves and prior to financial year 2012/13 for the Army Reserve.
- Gurkhas are recruited and employed in the British and Indian Armies under the terms of the 1947 Tri-Partite Agreement (TPA) on a broadly comparable basis. They remain Nepalese citizens but in all other respects are full members of HM Forces. Since 2008, Gurkhas are entitled to join the UK Regular Forces after 5 years of service and apply for British citizenship.
- Foreign Nationals consists of personnel with a non-UK Nationality. UK Nationalities include Bermudan, British, British Commonwealth, British Hong Kong, British Overseas Territory Citizen, British Singapore, Falkland Islander, Cayman Islander, Gibraltarian, Montserratian and St Helenian.
- Data for the full calendar year 2015 is unavailable as it is exempt under Section 44 of the FOI Act.

Proportion of Foreign Nationals⁷ in the UK Regulars², Future Reserves 2020 Volunteer Reserve³ and Gurkhas⁴ at 1 January each year

	01 Jan 2011	01 Jan 2012	01 Jan 2013	01 Jan 2014	01 Jan 2015	01 Oct 2015
Total (%)	6.7	6.9	6.3	6.1	5.7	5.5
UK Regular²	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.6
Gurkhas⁵	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Future Reserves 2020 Volunteer Reserve³	-	-	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes

1. Total includes UK Regulars, Future Reserves 2020 Volunteer Reserves personnel and Gurkhas.
2. UK Regulars are full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), High Readiness Reserve (HRR) and Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) personnel. Unless otherwise stated, includes trained and untrained personnel.
3. The Future Reserve 2020 (FR20) Volunteer Reserve includes volunteer reserves, High Readiness Reserves (HRR) and those volunteer reserves serving on Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and Additional Duties Commitment (ADC). Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI), Sponsored Reserves and University Officer Cadets are excluded.
4. Centrally held data dates back to October 2012 for the Maritime Reserve and RAF Reserves and April 2012 for the Army Reserve. As a result intake statistics by financial year are unavailable prior to financial year 2013/14 for the Maritime Reserve and RAF Reserves and prior to financial year 2012/13 for the Army Reserve.
5. Gurkhas are recruited and employed in the British and Indian Armies under the terms of the 1947 Tri-Partite Agreement (TPA) on a broadly comparable basis. They remain Nepalese citizens but in all other respects are full members of HM Forces. Since 2008, Gurkhas are entitled to join the UK Regular Forces after 5 years of service and apply for British citizenship.
6. Data for the full calendar year 2015 is unavailable as it is exempt under Section 44 of the FOI Act.
7. Foreign Nationals consists of personnel with a non-UK Nationality. UK Nationalities include Bermudan, British, British Commonwealth, British Hong Kong, British Overseas Territory Citizen, British Singapore, Falkland Islander, Cayman Islander, Gibraltar, Montserratian and St Helenian.

Rounding

Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers.