



Ministry
of Defence

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Date: 3rd June 2016

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 5th May 2016 requesting the following information:

1. *A total figure of personnel who left each year from 30/04/2011 until 30/04/2016, stratified by gender*
2. *The total figure of personnel who have left each year from 30/04/2011 until 30/04/2016 divided into age categories (e.g. under 18; 18-24; 35-34; 45-54; over 55), stratified by gender*
3. *The total figure of personnel who have left each year from 30/04/2011 until 30/04/2016 divided into Service (Army; Navy; Marine; RAF), stratified by gender*
4. *The total figure of personnel who have left each year from 30/04/2011 until 30/04/2016 divided by rank (Commissioned; non-commissioned), stratified by gender*
5. *The total figure of personnel who have left each year from 30/04/2011 until 30/04/2016 divided into Regular versus Reserve Status, stratified by gender*
6. *The total figure of personnel who have left each year from 30/04/2011 until 30/04/2016 divided into reason for leaving (e.g. Dishonourable discharge; medical discharge (please state either physical or mental); end of service; voluntary redundancy; redundancy), stratified by gender*
7. *If at all possible I would also like to request additional information on the time in service for each member of the Armed Forces who has left each year from 30/04/2011 until 30/04/2016, stratified by gender*

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

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds some of the information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information on the exit reason of Reserves personnel in scope of your request would exceed 1 year of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following:

- FR20 Volunteer Reserve data is only held back to April 2012 for the Army Reserve and October 2012 for the Maritime Reserve and RAF Reserves. Therefore, figures for the financial FY11/12

and FY12/13 would relate to UK Regular personnel only and figures for the financial years from 2013/14 to 2015/16 would be for both Regulars and FR20 Volunteer Reserve personnel.

- The Biannual Diversity Statistics (BDS), Service Personnel Statistics (SPS), Quarterly Personnel Report (QPR), UK Service Personnel Medical Discharges publications and UK Armed Forces Redundancy Programme Statistics are available online and contain figures which you may find useful. Links to the publications can be found overleaf.
 - **Question 1** – outflow figures stratified by gender by financial year (ie the 12 months ending 31 March) are available in BDS Table 10 for UK Regulars (FY11/12 to FY15/16) and BDS Table 23 for the FR20 Volunteer Reserve (FY13/14 to FY15/16).
 - **Question 2** – Table 12 (UK Regulars) of the BDS contains figures for financial years FY11/12 – FY15/16. Figures for FR20 Volunteer Reserves are scheduled for release on 24th November 2016 in the 1 October 2016 edition of the BDS.
 - **Question 4** – outflow figures stratified by officer/ rank (ie commissioned/ non-commissioned) and gender by financial year are available in BDS Table 10 for UK Regulars (FY11/12 to FY15/16) and BDS Table 23 for the FR20 Volunteer Reserve (FY13/14 to FY15/16).
 - **Question 5** – total outflow figures for Regulars and FR20 Volunteer Reserves for FY13/14 to FY15/16 are available in Tables 10 and 23 of the BDS respectively. A Regular/ Reserve comparison is not possible prior to this timeframe due to the absence of Reserve outflow data.
 - **Question 6** – Medical Discharge numbers for the UK Regulars for FY11/12 to FY14/15 are available in the UK Service Personnel Medical Discharges publication. The FY15/16 report is due for release on 14 July 2016. Further information on the exit reason of trained UK Regular Forces personnel is contained in Table 5d of the SPS (FY13/14 to FY15/16) and Tables 12a and 12b of the 1 April 2015 QPR (FY11/12 – FY12/13). The UK Armed Forces Redundancy Programme Statistics publication contains information on the numbers of UK Armed Forces personnel who applied or were selected for redundancy as part of the UK Armed Forces Redundancy Programme.
- Publication links:
 - 1 April 2016 Diversity Statistics - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2016>
 - Service Personnel Statistics - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-2016>
 - 1 April 2015 Quarterly Personnel Report - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-quarterly-personnel-report-2015>
 - UK Service Personnel Medical Discharges - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-discharges-among-uk-service-personnel-statistics-index>
 - UK Armed Forces Redundancy Programme Statistics - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-redundancy-program-statistics-index>

Please get in contact if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so. Once you have refined your request I will be pleased to consider it again.

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

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)