



Ministry of Defence

Defence Business Services
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2016/00277

E-mail: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.uk

[REDACTED]

1 February 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 8 January which is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested:

'I wish to request information as to the religious 'make up' of the Northern Ireland Security Guard Service, With this request I request that in particular regards to religious or recorded affiliation with a specific interest to the numbers/percentage of Roman Catholic/persons from a Roman Catholic background within that department'.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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 request is held.

There are a total of 380 individuals in the Northern Ireland Guard Service and 8 per cent of them are recorded as being Roman Catholic. Please note that the recording of religious information on the MOD civilian Human Resource Management system is voluntary and staff are not required to record a religious affiliation.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, 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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

DBS Secretariat Team