



Ministry of Defence

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XXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

19 February 2016

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXX,

Thank you for your email of 21 January 2016 requesting the following information:

I am asking under the Freedom of Information Act for the number of new recruits obtained by areas of the UK into the three main branches of the military (Army, Royal Navy, RAF) .

Could I have how many army soldiers were recruited in various areas of the UK in the past 12 months? (If "Scotland" is counted as a region could I have a more detailed break down of areas of Scotland please)

How many were recruited over the two years previously and from what areas? (If "Scotland" is counted as a region could I have a more detailed break down of areas of Scotland please)

How many soldiers have left the army in the past three years?

How many sailors into the Royal Navy were recruited in the past 12 months and from what area of the UK were they recruited? (If "Scotland" is counted as a region could I have a more detailed break down of areas of Scotland please)

How many were recruited over the two years previously and from what areas? (If "Scotland" is counted as a region could I have a more detailed break down of areas of Scotland please)

How many sailors have left the Royal Navy in the past three years?

How many airmen and women were recruited into the Royal Air Force in the past 12 months and from what area of the UK were they recruited? (If "Scotland" is counted as a region could I have a more detailed break down of areas of Scotland please)

How many were recruited over the two years previously and from what areas? (If "Scotland" is counted as a region could I have a more detailed break down of areas of Scotland please)

How many airmen and women have left the Royal Air Force in the past three years?

I am writing to confirm that we are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to confirm that we are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Ministry of Defence holds information on the subject you have requested. Your questions about recruitment from particular areas (including Scotland) have been interpreted as a recruitment of the person living in that particular area. As we cannot be certain that every recruitee originates from the area of the recruiting office they joined at, every application record would need to be investigated, pushing it over the cost limit allowed under the Act. 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 Ministry of Defence does hold figures for how many Armed Forces personnel have been recruited and have left in the past three years. However, under Section 21 of the FOI Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to supply information that is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. These figures are already released in information published on the Gov.uk website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-index>.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 Compliance Rights 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat