



Ministry  
of Defence

Ref. 2016/05166

Navy Command FOI Section  
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Via Email: [REDACTED]

8 June 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your email of 15 May requesting the following information:

*'1. Is there a gender breakdown for the Medical branch today, in 2005 and 2010, by specialisation? It would be particularly useful to see how many women there are in QARNNS, and what % of doctors are women.*

*2. As there are no longer any naval hospitals, do the Navy's medical staff work only on ships or also in sick quarters on land and at the Birmingham RCDM too?'*

Your enquiry is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

As previously notified, your request to arrange an interview with a member of the MOD Medical Services is being considered by the Surgeon General's office and will be the subject of a separate reply from that office.

The gender breakdown requested in your first query, by specialisation and for the years specified is at Annex A attached.

Regarding your second query I can confirm that The Royal Naval Medical Service (RNMS), which includes Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, has a wide range of roles all of which are open to women. The principle role for the RNMS is to provide support to Naval Service (NS) personnel when deployed. The NS routinely has in excess of 8,000 personnel at sea or deployed around the world. In May 2016, in addition to Medical Assistants and Doctors on a number of ships and submarines, we also had extra primary healthcare teams and a surgical team deployed to the Aegean Sea specifically to support the migrant operations there.

When not deployed, our Primary Healthcare personnel work in the UK/Gibraltar/Diego Garcia as part of Defence Primary Healthcare (DPHC) providing healthcare to Armed Forces Personnel from a large number of medical centres. Our Secondary Healthcare (hospital) personnel work within the Defence Medical Group; they work in NHS hospitals to maintain their clinical skills ready for deployment. These units are based in Portsmouth, Plymouth, Frimley Park, Middlesbrough and Birmingham are regional hubs and the main focus, but we also have staff placed in other NHS hospitals to ensure they are able to gain the skills they need and these include Bristol, Southampton, Oxford, Nottingham and Glasgow amongst others. A small group of nurses is employed at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court in Epsom.

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, <http://.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section

**Gender Breakdown in Medical Branches (Trained Regulars)**

BRANCH	01/04/2005				01/04/2010				01/04/2016			
	M	F	Total	Female %	M	F	Total	Female %	M	F	Total	Female %
RN Dental (OF)	40	20	60	33.9%	40	20	60	40.0%	30	20	50	40.8%
RN Medical (OF), <i>comprising</i>	280	40	320	13.3%	300	60	360	16.4%	240	60	310	21.0%
<i>Doctor/Surgeon</i>	220	40	260	15.3%	240	50	290	17.8%	190	60	250	23.4%
<i>Medical Services</i>	60	10	70	5.9%	60	10	70	10.4%	50	10	60	11.5%
RN Medical GS	370	270	640	42.5%	340	320	660	47.9%	280	300	580	50.9%
RN Medical SM	90	0	90	0.0%	120	0	120	0.0%	90	~	90	2.3%
RN QARNNS	60	140	200	71.1%	60	130	190	70.3%	50	110	150	70.1%
RN QARNNS (OF)	30	60	90	65.9%	30	50	80	66.3%	30	50	80	65.8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>1470</b>	<b>39.8%</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>1260</b>	<b>43.0%</b>

Produced by Defence Statistics (Navy), May 2016. Data have been rounded in accordance with Defence Statistics policy.

Notes:

1. The figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 10, "~" denotes a number less than or equal to five. When rounding up to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
2. The figures in italics provide a breakdown of the 'RN Medical (OF)' line and are not included in the column totals.
3. RN Dental (OF) – Includes all Dental Officers within the RN.
4. RN Medical (OF) – All Officers, this is split into Doctor/Surgeon which includes all Primary and Secondary healthcare doctors, and Medical Services which includes non-clinical medical support personnel.
5. RN Medical GS – Includes all Medical Branch Ratings (i.e. Medical Assistants, Pharmacy Techs, Biomedical Scientists, Dental Nurses etc.).
6. RN Medical SM – Includes all Ratings employed as Medical Assistants in the Submarine Flotilla.
7. RN QARNNS – Includes all nursing Ratings within the RN.
8. RN QARNNS (OF) – Includes all nursing Officers within the RN.

