



Ministry  
of Defence

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[Redacted]

Date: 20 September 2016

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 27 August 2016 requesting the following information:

**“how many Afro-Caribbean or Asian officers are currently serving who are of the rank or colonel and above. I would like figures for the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.**

**If possibly I would like figures for the total number of colonels, Brigadiers, Major Generals, Lieutenant Generals and Generals and the equivalent in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.”**

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

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that all information in scope of your request is held. Tables 1 and 2 (below) contain figures in response to your request.

**Table 1: Colonel and above BAME<sup>2</sup> UK Regular Forces<sup>1</sup> Personnel as at 1 April 2016**

	All Services	RN/RM	Army	RAF
<b>OF-6 - Commodore; Brigadier; Air Commodore</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>of which</i>				
Mixed Black Caribbean	-	-	-	-
Asian	-	-	-	-
Mixed Asian	1	-	-	1
<b>OF-5 - Captain; Colonel; Group Captain</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>~</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>~</b>
<i>of which</i>				
Mixed Black Caribbean	~	-	~	-
Asian	~	-	~	-
Mixed Asian	~	-	~	~

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

**Notes:**

1. UK Regular Forces comprises Full-time personnel but does not include Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and Reservists.
2. All UK Regular Forces personnel had self-declared their ethnicity on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) database as at 1 April 2016.
3. Information on the alignment between NATO Rank codes and UK Service Ranks can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/522136/Tri-Service\\_Glossary\\_-\\_April\\_16.pdf#page=10](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522136/Tri-Service_Glossary_-_April_16.pdf#page=10)
4. The sub totals presented in Table 2 do not represent an exhaustive list of the values which constitute BAME declarations on JPA

**Table 2: Colonel and above UK Regular Forces<sup>1</sup> Personnel as at 1 April 2016**

	All Services	RN/RM	Army	RAF
OF-9 - Admiral; General; Air Chief Marshal	7	1	4	2
OF-8 - Vice Admiral; Lieutenant General; Air Marshal	31	10	12	9
OF-7 - Rear Admiral; Major General; Air Vice-Marshal	95	27	45	23
OF-6 - Commodore; Brigadier; Air Commodore	299	82	143	74
OF-5 - Captain; Colonel; Group Captain	1060	280	290	300

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

**Notes:**

1. UK Regular Forces comprises Full-time personnel but does not include Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and Reservists.
2. Strengths for Senior Officers have been left unrounded because statistics for these personnel are considered non-sensitive and are already in the public domain.  
However Strengths for OF-5 have been rounded.

**Symbols:**

Figures below 6 are denoted by ~, zero is denoted by -.

**Rounding:**

Figures for personnel at NATO Rank OF-5 are rounded to the nearest 10. Figures for personnel at NATO Rank OF-6 and above have been left unrounded because statistics for these personnel are considered non-sensitive and are already in the public domain.  
Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

Ethnicity as recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) database is self-declared by individual personnel. No UK Regular Forces personnel occupying ranks of Major General, Lieutenant General and General declared their ethnicity as Afro-Caribbean or Asian on JPA. It should be noted, that it will take between 25-30 years for an officer to reach the rank of OF-7, and as the UK military internally promotes its Officers we expect these statistics to change in the coming years.

The Ministry of Defence is dedicated to becoming a more diverse and inclusive organisation, and it is driven by a programme of work covering both civilian and military employees. The Armed Forces have recently started a program of activities to increase the number of ethnic minority recruits, at both soldier and officer level, into the Armed Forces to 10% and the number of female recruits to 15% by 2020.

It should be noted that this response does not cover reservist officers.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA, further statistics on the diversity of the UK Armed Forces are available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-index>

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](mailto: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](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)