



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI 2015 06559

[REDACTED]

Date: 14 August 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 July requesting the following information:

“Please could you provide a table detailing the number of service personnel since 2010 who have been discharged within their first 3 years of service. Could the table be separated by year into sections for the army, navy and RAF?”

Following further communications on 21 July the request was clarified to be:

“Please could the table include both voluntary outflow as well as those discharged for administrative reasons, separated into 2 tables if possible?”

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.

The information you have requested can be found overleaf.

**Exits¹ for UK Regular² personnel with less than 3 full years of Service³
who have been discharged for administrative reasons⁴**

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
UK Regular Forces with less than 3 full years service	2 860	3 220	3 210	3 000	2 360	2 230
<i>of which:</i>						
Royal Navy/Royal Marines	400	960	660	600	600	570
Army	2 420	2 170	2 490	2 360	1 720	1 610
Royal Air Force	40	100	60	40	40	50

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

1. Exits are defined in this response as all outflow (or personnel leaving the Services) from the UK Regular Forces
2. UK Regular Forces comprises both trained and untrained Full-time personnel and excludes Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and reservists
3. Length of Service (LOS) is calculated as the difference between date of exit and their entry date. There are known problems with the entry date information extracted from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. If personnel have transferred from another Service, have served under an alternative assignment type (e.g. reserve forces), are re-entrants or have transferred from Other Ranks to Officers, their entry date may correspond to any of these events
The resulting LOS may reflect their current period of service, include previous service, or it may be the time that has elapsed since they first joined the Armed Forces, irrespective of any break in service. It will invariably include time spent on untrained strength
Personnel with incomplete entry / exit date information on their exit record, which would prevent calculation of LOS, have been removed from this response
4. The individual exit reasons which have been included as 'Administration reasons' have been defined for each Service by the manpower statistics teams attached to the commands. The figures in this response **exclude** redundancy

Exits¹ for Trained UK Regular² personnel with less than 3 full years of Service³ who left as Voluntary Outflow⁴

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
UK Regular Forces with less than 3 full years service	50	90	140	90	40	20
<i>of which:</i>						
Royal Navy/Royal Marines	10	20	20	30	10	~
Army	30	30	40	20	20	10
Royal Air Force	10	40	80	30	10	10

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

1. Exits are defined in this response as all outflow (or personnel leaving the Services) from the UK Regular Forces
2. UK Regular Forces in this table comprises **trained** Full-time personnel and excludes Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and reservists
3. Length of Service (LOS) is calculated as the difference between date of exit and their entry date. There are known problems with the entry date information extracted from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. If personnel have transferred from another Service, have served under an alternative assignment type (e.g. reserve forces), are re-entrants or have transferred from Other Ranks to Officers, their entry date may correspond to any of these events
The resulting LOS may reflect their current period of service, include previous service, or it may be the time that has elapsed since they first joined the Armed Forces, irrespective of any break in service. It will invariably include time spent on untrained strength
Personnel with incomplete entry / exit date information on their exit record, which would prevent calculation of LOS, have been removed from this response
4. Voluntary outflow is defined as all exits from Trained UK Regular Forces which are voluntarily generated by the individual before the end of their agreed engagement or commission period

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, 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, <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)