



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Level 6 Zone D
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 721 89000

Email: People-sec-FOIMailbox@mod.uk

Our Reference: FOI2015/09023

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

12 November 2015

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXX,

Thank you for your email dated 15 October requesting the following information:

- 1. What is the current manpower strength in numbers of personnel for a) Army b) RAF and c) Navy?*
- 2. How many positions are currently unfilled / vacant for the three services (ab+c)*
- 3. How many of these positions currently have staff in training?*
- 4. How many foreign armed forces personnel are currently filling vacant positions?*
- 5. How many foreign service personnel are attached to UK forces as 'additional' personnel?*
- 6. How many additional personnel will we require in order to operate new navy aircraft carriers and their aircraft?*
- 7. What are the projected manpower numbers for (ab+c) in 2020?*

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 the Ministry of Defence holds information on the subject you have requested. 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. The answers to your questions 1, 2, 3 and 7 are contained in information published on the Gov.uk website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-2015>. These are updated monthly and the figures for October will be available on 12 November.

Turning to questions 4 and 5, about foreign service personnel, we have interpreted these questions to be about non-UK Armed Forces personnel considered to be on an exchange programme to the UK. Our Armed Forces supports a range of individual, short term,

inbound and outbound attachments and exchanges with non-UK Armed Forces. There are no set targets; numbers vary each year depending on requirements and individual opportunities. For 2014/15 the number of non-UK Armed Forces personnel considered to be on loan to the UK Armed Forces through an exchange programme, was as follows:

Royal Navy – 8 in non-reciprocal exchange

Army – 59 estimate short term attachments and exchanges

Tri Service – 50 personnel through the LongLook reciprocal exchange programme

In addition, in 2015 the Royal Air Force had 75 such personnel (of which 31 were new/replacements in post).

Question 6 asked about new aircraft carriers and the additional personnel required to operate them. The Royal Navy currently estimates that both carriers will be manned from within it's existing headcount.

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 Head of Corporate Information, 1st Floor, Zone N, 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat