



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services
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E-mail: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.uk

Our Ref: FOI2016/05026

Email: [REDACTED]

7 June 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 8 April which asked:

“Please could you advise of the total number of children British Armed Forces Personnel?”

On the 9 May clarification was sought on whether you required Regular Personnel only or if Reservists should be included. The same day you confirmed you required both Regular and Reservist data.

I am treating your email as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

It is not mandatory for Service Personnel (Regular and Reservists) to declare children; however they can record their next of kin contact details on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system if they wish. This data does not include the following relationship types; domestic partners children, spouse's child, foster child or adopted child and cannot be taken as an exact amount of Service Personnel in the Armed Forces who have children, as recording children is not mandatory and therefore any data held is incomplete.

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

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
DBS Secretariat Team