



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI 2015 01256

[Redacted]

Date: 6 February 2015

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 2 February 2015 requesting the following information:

- *I would like details of the declared religions of service personnel, broken down by service, for the last two years.*
- *I would like a breakdown of religions that are declared under the category entitled "All other religions": Baha'i, Druid, Kirati, Pagan, Rastafarian, Spiritualist, Zoroastrian and Wicca.*

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

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; the numbers of UK Regular personnel, trained and untrained, with detail on personnel with a declared religion of 'Other Religion' for each Service as at the 1 April points for 2012, 2013 and 2014.

The total numbers of UK Regular personnel, trained and untrained, is provided for each Service and each date point for comparison.

Please note: The following numbers are self reported and individual personnel are responsible for updating this field.

As the statistics regard declared religion; people that have an undeclared religion or prefer not to state their religion could follow any of these religions but would not be represented in these categories by statistics.

The sub-category within Other Religion of Other Religion in the table below represents personnel who have 'Other Religion' recorded as their religion, so we cannot identify the individual religions within this category any further than this.

UK Regular Forces, by declared religion as at 1 April 2012, 2013 and 2014

	April 2012				April 2013				April 2014			
	All Services	RN/RM	Army	RAF	All Services	RN/RM	Army	RAF	All Services	RN/RM	Army	RAF
UK Regulars	179 800	35 540	104 250	40 000	170 710	33 960	99 730	37 030	159 630	33 330	91 070	35 230
Undeclared Religion¹	1 800	130	100	1 570	1 540	90	90	1 360	1 310	50	50	1 210
Declared Religion	178 010	35 420	104 150	38 440	169 170	33 870	99 640	35 660	158 320	33 290	91 020	34 020
Buddhist	520	40	440	40	560	50	470	40	550	40	470	40
Christian ²	148 810	28 010	89 400	31 400	138 400	26 020	83 700	28 680	126 550	24 800	75 040	26 710
Hindu	820	20	760	40	890	20	830	40	880	20	820	40
Judaism	80	10	60	10	70	10	50	10	60	10	40	20
Kirati	20	~	20	~	40	~	30	-	40	~	40	-
Muslim	650	40	550	50	640	40	550	50	600	40	510	40
No Religion	26 180	7 110	12 370	6 710	27 670	7 550	13 450	6 670	28 780	8 200	13 560	7 020
Sikh	130	10	90	20	140	10	120	20	160	10	130	20
Other Religions³	800	170	460	160	750	160	440	150	700	160	400	140
<i>Of which:</i>												
Baha'i	10	-	10	-	10	-	10	-	10	-	10	-
Druid	10	~	10	~	10	~	~	~	10	~	~	~
Other Religions ⁴	490	120	260	110	450	120	230	100	410	120	190	100
Pagan	120	20	60	40	110	20	60	40	100	20	60	30
Rastafarian	100	10	90	~	110	10	100	~	120	20	110	~
Spiritualist	50	10	30	10	40	10	30	10	30	10	20	~
Wicca	20	10	10	~	20	10	10	~	20	10	10	~
Zoroastrian (Parsee)	~	-	~	~	~	-	~	~	~	-	~	-

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri Service)

1. Undeclared religion includes those with an unrecorded religion and those who choose not to declare.
2. Christian includes personnel with declared religions considered to be of Christian Tradition. This category includes Christian Scientist, Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon), Jehovah's Witness and Unitarian religions among others.
3. Other Religions includes Druid, Pagan, Rastafarian, Spiritualist, Zoroastrian (Parsee), Wicca and Baha'i among others.
4. The sub-category within Other Religion of Other Religion in the table below represents personnel who have 'Other Religion' recorded as their religion, so we cannot identify the individual religions within this category any further than this.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Additionally, totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

- zero
~ five or less

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)