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of Defence

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Date: 25 February 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your clarification email of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 requesting the following information:

- *Between 1st April 2007 and 31st October 2014, how many British Armed Forces personnel (unique individuals) were deployed overseas? Please provide the total figure as well as the numbers year-by-year. With any available totals provided for dates before back to 1 January 1991.*
- *Between 1st April 2007 and 31st October 2014, how many British Armed Forces personnel (unique individuals) were deployed within the UK? Please provide the total figure as well as the numbers year-by-year. With any available totals provided for dates before back to 1 January 1991.*
- *Between 1st April 2007 and 31st October 2014, and any available information provided for dates before this back to 1 January 1991, how many British Armed Forces personnel deployed to each of the following conflict zones:*
  - *Iraq (Telic),*
  - *Iraq (current ops),*
  - *Northern Ireland,*
  - *Afghanistan (Herrick),*
  - *Bosnia,*
  - *1991 Gulf War (Granby),*
  - *Northern Ireland,*
  - *UK Independent Nuclear Deterrent.*

*Please provide the number of unique individuals deployed to each conflict zone (which would be within the main country of operations for each operation).*

We are 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 some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found overleaf.

**Unique individuals who have had an Overseas Deployment**

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 and the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014, there have been **169,810** individual Armed Forces personnel who have had an **overseas deployment**.

**Notes**

- 1. Overseas deployments are defined as the total number of personnel currently deployed outside the mainland UK's borders; this **includes** other countries and British overseas territories. It **excludes** personnel deployed on operations in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, those deployments recorded with a country code of 'At Sea' and those with an unrecorded / unassigned deployed country code. This figure includes all military personnel mobilised for named contingency operations, wartime operations, United Nations peacekeeping operations and humanitarian operations. Data only includes personnel who are deployed to an overseas location with an assigned country code. All personnel on overseas training exercises are **excluded** from the total figures published.
- 2. The total does not include repeat tours and each individual is only recorded once.
- 3. Deployment data are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) 'Move and Track' system.

**Please note:** As personnel can have multiple deployments; personnel deployed overseas could also be deployed to the UK as well so these figures can not be combined to give an overall number of individuals deployed on operations. For reference; between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 and the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014, there have been a total **192,930** individual Armed Forces personnel who have had a deployment record.

**Notes**

- 1. Data only includes personnel who are deployed to a known location with an assigned country code. All personnel on overseas training exercises are **excluded** from the total figures published as are those recorded with a country code of 'At Sea' and those with an unrecorded / unassigned deployed country code.
- 2. The total does not include repeat tours and each individual is only recorded once.
- 3. Deployment data are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) 'Move and Track' system.

Below is a table outlining, for financial years since April 2007, the number of individuals per financial year that have been on an **overseas deployment**.

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	1 Apr 14 to 31 Oct 14
<b>Number of individual UK Armed Forces Personnel on Overseas deployments</b>	58 590	53 910	46 240	45 180	49 220	43 880	34 950	18 860

Source Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

**Notes**

- 1. Overseas deployments are defined as the total number of personnel currently deployed outside the mainland UK's borders; this **includes** other countries and British overseas territories. It **excludes** personnel deployed to England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, those recorded with a country code of 'At Sea' and those with an unrecorded deployed country code. This figure includes all military personnel mobilised for named contingency operations, wartime operations, United Nations peacekeeping operations and humanitarian operations. Deployments are separated by financial year based on when personnel began a deployment. Data only includes personnel who are deployed to an overseas location with an assigned country code. All personnel on overseas training exercises are **excluded** from the total figures published.
- 2. **Please note:** the total does not include repeat tours within the same financial year so each individual is only recorded once per financial year. If personnel began a deployment in multiple financial years they would be reported against each financial year they were deployed in.
- 3. Deployment data are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) 'Move and Track' system.

### Unique individuals who have had UK Deployment

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 and the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014, there have been a total of **39,090** individual Armed Forces personnel who have had a deployment in the United Kingdom.

**Notes**

1. A UK deployment is defined as the total number of personnel currently deployed within mainland UK’s borders. It **includes** all personnel deployed to England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. This **excludes** those recorded with a country code of ‘At Sea’ and those with an unrecorded deployed country code. Data only includes personnel who are deployed with an assigned country code. All personnel on training exercises are excluded from the total figures.
2. The total does not include repeat tours and each individual is only recorded once.
3. Deployment data are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) ‘Move and Track’ system.

**Please note:** As previously noted; as personnel can be deployed multiple times, personnel deployed to the UK could also be deployed overseas as well so these figures cannot be combined to give an overall number of individuals deployed on operations.

Below is a table outlining for financial years since April 2007, the number of individuals per financial year that have been deployed on a **UK deployment**.

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	1 Apr 14 to 31 Oct 14
<b>Number of individual UK Armed Forces Personnel on UK deployments</b>	2 590	2 370	1 740	3 170	2 860	20 940	6 130	4 980

Source Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

**Notes**

1. A UK deployment is defined as the total number of personnel currently deployed within mainland UK’s borders. It **includes** all personnel deployed to England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. This **excludes** those recorded with a country code of ‘At Sea’ and those with an unrecorded deployed country code. Deployments are separated by financial year based on when personnel began a deployment. Data only includes personnel who are deployed with an assigned country code. All personnel on training exercises are excluded from the total figures.
2. **Please note:** the total does not include repeat tours within the same financial year so each individual is only recorded once per financial year. If personnel were deployed in multiple financial years they would be reported against each financial year they were deployed in.
3. Deployment data are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) ‘Move and Track’ system.

**Unique individuals who have had deployment to a specific country of operations / conflict zone**

From the beginning of the conflict to May 2011, there had been **148,990** individual Armed Forces personnel who have had a **deployment on Operation TELIC**.

From the beginning of the conflict to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014, there had been **139,030** individual Armed Forces personnel who have had a **deployment on Operation HERRICK**.

**Notes**

1. The deployment figures above relate to all those individuals deployed on the specific named operations above. All personnel on overseas training exercises are **excluded** from the total figures published. As this is based on Operation it is not specifically related to a country. For example, Operation HERRICK is the name associated to all British operations in Afghanistan but also encompasses the whole of the Joint Operation Area in the region; so personnel deployed to this operation do not have to be solely deployed within Afghanistan as not all supporting operational posts are geographically located within Afghanistan.
2. The individual total does not include repeat tours and each individual is only recorded once per Operation. If personnel were deployed to both operations they would be reported once against each Operation they were deployed on.
3. Deployment data are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) `Move and Track` system.

Please see below a table outlining the number of unique individuals deployed to each country of operations requested between 1 April 2007 and the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014.

	Iraq	Afghanistan	Northern Ireland	Bosnia
<b>Number of individual UK Armed Forces Personnel on deployments between 1 April 2007 to 31 October 14</b>	35 100	128 750	1 020	490

Source Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

**Notes**

1. The deployments above include all individuals deployed to the specific country of operation as defined by the request as `conflict zones`. These **exclude** those recorded with a country code of `At Sea` and those with an unrecorded deployed country code. Data only includes personnel who are deployed with an assigned country code. All personnel on training exercises are excluded from the total figures.
2. **Please note:** the total does not include repeat tours to the same country so each individual is only recorded once per country. If personnel were deployed to multiple countries above they would be reported against each country they were deployed to.
3. Deployment data are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) `Move and Track` system.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it help to note that, although detailed deployment information currently held centrally and readily accessible only covers post-April 2007 Joint Personnel Administration system data and total numbers for Operation HERRICK (Afghanistan) and Operation TELIC (Iraq), previously, information on the stationed and deployed location of personnel was published as 'number of deployments per year' (by whether UK or Overseas) in the **United Kingdom Defence Statistics (UKDS)** compendium prior to 2001.

**Please note:** Although this information is described as 'deployment' it is **not methodologically consistent** with the information provided above for post April 2007 deployments, as the historic figures published in the UKDS reports include all personnel in the Armed Forces at each date and the locations quoted don't distinguish whether the location was *specifically a deployment or their usual stationed location*.

Figures provided in the report up to 2001 issue provided detail on where Service personnel were deployed and stationed however, publications after this date contained data regarding the stationed location of where Service personnel were based.

Deployment information for **1991 - 2000** can currently be found in the historic issues of the UKDS currently held in the National Archives.

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium>

UKDS 2001 gives detail on deployment / stationed location between **1996 - 2000** in Table 2.4 and Table 2.5, on pages 35-37 of the pdf document

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/2001/2001.pdf#page=35>

UKDS 1997 gives detail on deployment / stationed location between **1991 - 1996** in Table 2.4 and Table 2.5, on pages 30-32 of the pdf document;

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/1997/1997.pdf#page=30>

Information on the number of deployments during the 1990/91 Gulf conflict can be found in the Defence Statistics (Health) publication **Causes of deaths that occurred among the UK veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf conflict**. This provides summary statistics and tracks the causes of death occurring among the UK veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf conflict. This report can be found here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/causes-of-deaths-that-occurred-among-the-uk-veterans-of-the-199091-gulf-conflict>

Information on the number of deployments and number of units deployed to **Northern Ireland** can be found in the UK Defence Statistics compendium publication. Information on the number of personnel and number of units deployed can be found in historic versions of this publication currently held in the National Archives.

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium>

**UKDS 2008** gives detail on Army deployments to Northern Ireland between **1969 and 2008**, in Table 7.4 on page 157 of the pdf document;

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/2008/2008.pdf#page=157>

As quoted in our previous correspondence; we are unable to answer your request about UK Independent Nuclear Deterrent without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is due to retrieving information in scope of your request would involve searching the individual records for all submariners and identifying those who had served on one of the 4 Vanguard class ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) as part of continuous at sea deterrence at any point during the timeframe requested. Furthermore, as before, this is an enduring operational commitment not an operational deployment.

Additionally, you may find it useful to note that, in terms of potentially providing figures for the ships complements; in October 2014 when handling a Parliamentary Question, *Written Question 210841*, crew figures were withheld on the grounds of National Security by Minister of State (Ministry of Defence). This response can be accessed here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-16/210841/>

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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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)