



Ministry  
of Defence

**Head of Defence Statistics (Air)**

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

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Ref: FOI2017/09788

[REDACTED]

30 October 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 11 October 2017 requesting the following information:

*"The total strength of regular Royal Air Force personnel as at 1 Jan for the last 10 years (2008-17)"*

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

The table below contains the information requested.

RAF Regular Strength<sup>1</sup>

	<b>Number of personnel</b>
1 Jan 2008	43 585
1 Jan 2009	43 109
1 Jan 2010	43 909
1 Jan 2011	42 861
1 Jan 2012 <sup>2</sup>	40 893
1 Jan 2013 <sup>3</sup>	37 457
1 Jan 2014 <sup>3</sup>	35 515
1 Jan 2015 <sup>3</sup>	34 195
1 Jan 2016 <sup>3</sup>	33 542
1 Jan 2017 <sup>3</sup>	33 232

Source: Defence Statistics (Air)

<sup>1</sup> Strength includes all regular personnel and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, volunteer reserves and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

<sup>2</sup> Data available from January 2012 edition of 'UK armed forces monthly personnel report' on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) but provided for ease of reference.

<sup>3</sup> Data available from January 2017 edition of 'UK armed forces monthly service personnel statistics' on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) but provided for ease of reference.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Defence Statistics (Air)

Would you like to be added to our contact list so we can consult with you if we are thinking about making any changes to the statistics we compile? Please register your interest by e-mailing [defstrat-stat-air@mod.gov.uk](mailto:defstrat-stat-air@mod.gov.uk)