



Ministry
of Defence

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Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 13th January 2017 requesting the following information:

- “1) Outflow numbers of all armed forces services, by length of service, over the last 5 years, please?
- Specifically, an updated version of Table 2 in the attached PDF document.
2) Future outflow figures from the military to 2020 please.
-Specifically, I am looking for *forecasted outflow numbers for...*
a) Table 5c - *Outflow from the UK Regular Forces from 'Monthly Service Personnel Statistics, November 2016'*
b) Table 5d - *Outflow from the trained UK Regular Forces by exit reason also from 'Monthly Service Personnel Statistics, November 2016'*
c) Table 10 - *Outflow from UK Regular Forces by Gender from the Biannual Diversity Statistics, Oct 2016*
d) Table 11 - *Outflow from UK Regular Forces by Ethnicity also from the Biannual Diversity Statistics, Oct 2016*
e) As well as *Outflow by length of service, shown in the attached PDF*”

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that all information in scope of your request is held.

Information in response to Question 1 is reported in Table 1 (below). The information required to answer Question 2 is exempt under Section 35(1)(a) of the FOIA as it relates to the formulation and development of government policy. Section 35(1)(a) is a qualified exemption, and is therefore subject to a public interest test. The balance of the public interest test determined that the aforementioned forecast figures should be withheld on the basis that they are part of a live policymaking process on workforce planning by the Ministry of Defence, and that their release would be likely to damage that policymaking process.

Table 1: Outflow of UK Regular Forces¹ Personnel by Calendar Year and Length of Service²

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
All Services	19 200	25 140	23 520	18 820	17 230
Less Than 1 Year	2 940	2 800	2 260	1 890	2 310
1-2 Years	1 880	1 390	1 170	1 110	1 060
3-5 Years	3 580	4 420	4 320	3 440	3 040
6-10 Years	3 340	5 560	5 520	4 260	4 350
11-15 Years	1 540	3 100	3 160	2 580	2 240
16-21 Years	1 100	1 870	1 930	1 270	900
22-27 Years	3 510	4 450	3 790	2 940	2 130
28-37 Years	1 050	1 370	1 170	1 140	1 000
Over 37 Years	90	80	80	70	60
Unknown	180	90	110	120	130
RN/RM	3 720	4 870	3 920	3 510	3 370
Less Than 1 Year	470	470	500	490	530
1-2 Years	360	210	150	140	170
3-5 Years	720	880	680	570	400
6-10 Years	670	1 220	770	750	900
11-15 Years	280	570	390	400	430
16-21 Years	290	330	340	220	200
22-27 Years	550	760	660	550	380
28-37 Years	310	400	320	290	250
Over 37 Years	10	10	10	~	10
Unknown	60	40	80	100	90
Army	12 200	15 510	16 100	12 090	11 040
Less Than 1 Year	2 300	2 200	1 650	1 260	1 660
1-2 Years	1 350	1 050	980	920	850
3-5 Years	2 610	3 110	3 280	2 500	2 390
6-10 Years	2 100	3 600	4 180	2 950	2 830
11-15 Years	890	1 710	2 160	1 550	1 200
16-21 Years	310	800	1 120	780	440
22-27 Years	2 310	2 620	2 370	1 790	1 330
28-37 Years	210	350	330	290	280
Over 37 Years	20	30	20	20	10
Unknown	100	50	20	30	40
RAF	3 280	4 750	3 500	3 210	2 820
Less Than 1 Year	180	130	120	140	120
1-2 Years	180	140	40	50	40
3-5 Years	250	440	360	360	250
6-10 Years	560	740	570	560	620
11-15 Years	360	820	620	620	610
16-21 Years	500	740	470	270	260
22-27 Years	650	1 070	760	600	410
28-37 Years	530	630	520	560	470
Over 37 Years	60	50	50	40	40
Unknown	10	~	~	~	-

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes:

1. UK Regular Forces comprise Full-time personnel but does not include Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and Reservists.
2. Length of Service (LOS) is calculated as the difference between date of exit and date of entry as recorded on JPA. There are known problems with the date of entry information extracted from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. If personnel have transferred from another Service, have served under an alternative assignment type (e.g. Reserve Forces), are re-entrants or have transferred from Other Ranks to Officers, their entry date may correspond to any of these events. The resulting LOS may reflect their current period of service, include previous service, or it may be the time that has elapsed since they first joined the Armed Forces, irrespective of any break in service. It will invariably include time spent on untrained strength.
3. All figures are as reported on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) database.
4. Each Service offers different contracts and minimum service lengths for personnel; this may contribute to the differences in the lengths of service at exit for personnel in each Service.

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, Ground 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)