

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION ON THE AMENDMENT OF MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OFFICIAL STATISTIC 'ANNUAL POPULATION SURVEY: UK ARMED FORCES VETERANS RESIDING IN GREAT BRITAIN'

Introduction

1. Defence Statistics Health opened a consultation with stakeholders on 5 October 2017, regarding the proposal to reduce the scope of the official statistic 'Annual Population Survey (APS): UK Armed Forces residing in Great Britain (GB)', by not presenting 2014 and 2015 historic comparison data.

Consultation Outcome

2. One response was received by the Royal British Legion (RBL) during the consultation period, which ended on 18 October 2017. The RBL opposed the reduction in scope of the 2016 APS veteran estimates as they rely on historic data to monitor demographic changes in the veteran population over time. However, previously published 2014 and 2015 veteran estimates remain accessible on the Gov.uk website. Whilst the reweighted datasets for these time periods have not been analysed to make statistically sound comparisons with the 2016 data, any changes will likely be minimal and will not affect the estimated demographic profile of veterans.
3. The 2014 APS survey data were reweighted to produce comparisons for the 2015 estimates. The change in the weight resulted in a minimal reduction of the overall 2015 veteran population estimate (by less than 0.05%). Any changes at lower geography levels also continued to be minimal (by less than 0.1%). Therefore it is deemed appropriate to use already published information to monitor trends over time.
4. Taking into account the feedback received, the decision has been taken to reduce the scope of the 2016 APS veteran estimates.
5. Following their objection, Defence Statistics will work collaboratively with the RBL to ensure that the APS veteran estimates continue to meet their needs.

The 2016 estimates were published on 26 October 2017. The next update of APS statistics will be in 2018.