

Proposed reduction in scope of the Official Statistic ‘Annual Population Survey: UK Armed Forces Veterans residing in Great Britain’

SUMMARY

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently publishes the Official Statistic ‘Annual Population Survey: UK Armed Forces Veterans residing in Great Britain’. We are now seeking external users’ views on reducing the scope of this publication to exclude 2014 and 2015 historic comparison data in the 2016 estimates.

BACKGROUND

Annual estimates on the size and socio-demographic characteristics of UK Armed Forces veterans residing in Great Britain (GB) are compiled using responses provided in the Annual Population Survey (APS), produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

One of the benefits of annual APS data is that any changes in trends over time can be monitored. Therefore the 2015 APS UK Armed Forces veterans Official Statistics included 2014 comparison data. It was also intended that both 2014 and 2015 historic comparisons would be presented within the 2016 estimates.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE

Defence Statistics Health is proposing to reduce the scope of APS Veteran Estimates Official Statistic by not presenting 2014 and 2015 historic comparison data for the following reasons:

- There were no large changes between the datasets for veterans between 2014 and 2015. The 2014 comparison data were not discussed within the 2015 veteran estimates; only presented within the accompanying Excel tables.
- To continue to produce comparable historic 2014 and 2015 comparisons for the 2016 Official Statistics will require considerable resource; estimated to be in excess of 30 working days. In line with ONS methodology the 2014 and 2015 APS raw datasets will have to be reweighted (using the ONS 2016 weighting) to align with the latest dataset for comparison.
- Resource required to compile historic 2014 and 2015 comparison data can instead be allocated towards the development of more comprehensive APS veterans estimates (to be released in 2018), which will include a combined dataset covering the period of several years. This should enable the department to produce lower-level location estimates of veterans, information which is sought after by local Government who have signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant.

Note that the omission of historic trend data will **not** impact on the presentation of 2016 veteran estimates.

TIMINGS

This consultation will run for **two weeks**, from **5 October to 18 October 2017**. This consultation complies with the Government’s Code of Practice on Consultations.

As long as there is no objection during the consultation period, the reduction in scope of the ‘Annual Population Survey: UK Armed Forces Veterans residing in Great Britain’ Official Statistics will proceed.

RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

Considering the reasons for the proposed changes, we now invite the feedback of our external data users and are keen to know what impact the reduction of frequency of this publication will have on you.

Ways to respond

If you have any comments on the proposed changes please send:

By email to: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

By post to:
Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence
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Abbey Wood North
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When sending your comments please include contact details (your name and either e mail address, postal address or telephone number) so that we can follow up if clarification is needed.