



**Ministry
of Defence**

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Date: **26th January 2017**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 25th January 2017 requesting the following information:

“A.Strength of UK Forces Service Personnel

May 2016 = 196 840

Dec 2016 = 197 150

Diff = + 310

B.Full-time Trained Strength

May 2016 = 140 130

Dec 2016 = 139 350

Diff = -780

C.Strength of the Trained FR20 Volunteer Reserve

May 2016 = 27 520

Dec 2016 = 30 800

Diff = +3280

D.People joined the UK Regular Armed Forces

May 2016 = 13 750

Dec 2016 = 13 450

Diff = -300

E.Regular personnel left the Armed Forces

May 2016 = 16 480

Dec 2016 = 15 140

Diff = -1340

F.People joined the FR20 Volunteer Reserve

May 2016 = 8 030

Dec 2016 = 6 880

Diff = -1150

G.FR20 Volunteer Reserve personnel left

May 2016 = 4 360

Dec 2016 = 5 080

Diff = +720

Question 1.

How is figure A (Strength of UK Forces Service Personnel) made up? For me i would say Full-time Trained Strength + Strength of the Trained FR20 Volunteer Reserve = Strength of UK Forces Service Personnel but this is $140130 + 27520 = 167650$ which is 29190 short.

Question 2.

in May 2016 figure C. (Strength of the Trained FR20 Volunteer Reserve) was 27520 but 6 month later that figure is 30800 an increase of 3280 which is a increase of 3280 which is more than the 12 month period from may 2015 to may 2016 (2600) are these figures correct?

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. The information you have requested is available below:

1). The Strength of UK Forces Service Personnel figure you refer to comprises UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), Volunteer Reserve, Serving Regular Reserve, Sponsored Reserve, and FTRS of unknown origin. University Officer Cadets are excluded. Unless otherwise stated, this includes trained and untrained personnel.

These figures are available in the Excel tables (Table 1) we provide monthly alongside our publication, accessible from the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-2016>

The Tri-Service glossary, provided at the following link, provides further information on these populations:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-statistics-glossary-of-terms-and-abbreviations>

2). FR20 Trained Strength comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training for Maritime Reserve, the Army Reserve (prior to 1 October 2016) and the Royal Air Force Reserves. Following the change in definition of Trained Strength from 1 October 2016, Trained Strength for the Army Reserve comprises of personnel who have completed Phase 1 training; this is highlighted by the discontinuity marker in the Tri-Service and Army Reserve time series (Table 6a). This change in the definition of Trained Strength for the Army is responsible for the abrupt increase in the size of this population seen in October 2016.

The MOD held a public consultation on SDSR Resilience: Trained strength definition for the Army and resultant changes to Ministry of Defence Armed Forces personnel statistics, between 11 July and 21 August 2016. A consultation response was published on 7 November 2016, and is available from the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/mod-personnel-statistics-change-to-army-trained-strength-definition>

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)