



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)  
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Reference: 2017/11405

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 12/11/2017 requesting the following information:

**“I would like to request data to follow up on the UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics report, released on 24 November 2016, and the UK Defence Personnel Statistics briefing paper, released on 29 June 2017, please.**

**Specifically, I am interested in statistics on ethnic diversity across the Armed Forces (broken down into Navy/Army/RAF) by ethnicity, broken down into BAME categories (Asian, black, mixed etc.), at the officer level and across ranks, from 2000 to 2017.”**

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 some information in scope of your request is held.

The table in the Microsoft Excel document attached provide some of the data requested.

The table contains a breakdown of “UK Regulars by Ethnicity and Officer/Rank”. The full data are not available as the JPA system only contains data from 2007 onwards (2006 for the RAF). The data prior to this has been gathered from the single services and publications. The Royal Navy/Royal Marines do not hold the data prior to April 2003 so the high level BAME data is included from previous publications. There is no BAME breakdown from April 2002 data in previous publications, so this data is not included for The Royal Navy/Royal Marines. The RAF and Army had their own data for this month and so that is included.

The population of BAME recruits joining the Armed Forces is steadily increasing. A diverse force is a stronger force and we are working hard to ensure all our services better represent the society they serve. MOD targets set out our aim for military recruits to be made up of 10% people from BAME backgrounds by 2020.

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). 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/>.

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.gov.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)



Unknown	65	*	20	*	1 095	*	1 280	*	1 455	*	1 350	*	895	*	885	*	825	*	770	*	745	*	735	*	695	*	575	*	565	*	390	*	360	*	335	*
<b>Other Ranks</b>	<b>43 880</b>		<b>42 880</b>		<b>42 250</b>		<b>42 430</b>		<b>42 510</b>		<b>41 270</b>		<b>38 420</b>		<b>35 520</b>		<b>33 680</b>		<b>33 780</b>		<b>34 230</b>		<b>32 810</b>		<b>30 970</b>		<b>28 790</b>		<b>27 380</b>		<b>26 300</b>		<b>26 000</b>		<b>25 740</b>	
BAME	475	1.1%	475	1.1%	960	2.6%	960	2.5%	945	2.5%	905	2.4%	820	2.3%	735	2.2%	670	2.1%	655	2.0%	660	2.0%	620	2.0%	575	1.9%	550	2.0%	530	2.0%	530	2.1%	565	2.2%	575	2.3%
Mixed	-		-		390		405		400		375		345		320		300		295		300		285		275		265		270		290		295		295	
Asian	125		125		140		145		140		135		125		105		100		110		130		115		105		100		90		90		100		110	
Black	200		205		270		255		255		250		220		190		170		165		155		145		130		125		125		130		120		120	
Other	145		145		155		155		150		145		130		115		100		85		80		75		65		55		50		45		45		45	
White	43 370	98.9%	42 395	98.9%	36 280	97.4%	37 110	97.5%	37 515	97.5%	36 600	97.6%	35 255	97.7%	32 745	97.8%	31 270	97.9%	31 610	98.0%	32 150	98.0%	30 870	98.0%	29 165	98.1%	27 270	98.0%	25 975	98.0%	25 115	97.9%	24 800	97.8%	24 630	97.7%
Unknown	35	*	-	*	5 010	*	4 360	*	4 055	*	3 765	*	2 340	*	2 045	*	1 735	*	1 520	*	1 420	*	1 320	*	1 230	*	970	*	875	*	650	*	635	*	535	*

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

1. Contains trained and untrained regular personnel only, excluding FTRS personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, MPGS, LEP and NRPS.
2. Figures in this publication have been rounded to the nearest 10, though numbers ending in a "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent the systematic bias caused by always rounding numbers upwards. Totals and sub-totals are rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.
3. Prior to April 2007 for the Army and Royal Navy/Royal Marines and prior to April 2006 for RAF, data from the JPA system are not available, therefore figures are drawn from the individual services records. Because of this, the totals may not match the published totals prior to 2007.
4. Percentages are based on unrounded data, except the Army percentages pre 2007.
5. Between April 2001 and April 2002 the BAME categories changed. There was a recoding of the ethnic origin of individuals in line with the 2001 Population Census codes. This partly explains the low BAME percentages in 2000 and 2001 relative to the following years as the 'Mixed' individuals appear to be distributed heavily in the 'White' category.
6. The Royal Navy has no advanced BAME breakdown prior to April 2003, so the high level BAME figures have been included from publications. The publication from April 2002 has October 2001 data, so this is not available.

"\*" - Data not available

"~" - Data less than 5 so held under the Data Protection Act.

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