



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
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FOI 2017/03311

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[REDACTED]  
Via email: [REDACTED]

11 April 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your email of 13 March 2017 providing clarification of your Freedom of Information Request, and which now reads as follows:

*I think this request will come under the FOI. I got all the other stats from the MOD reports that are on line, but most don't give a gender breakdown.*

*Please be very clear: it is separate male and female stats that are being requested*

**1. RFA.**

*1.a. Please tell me the total female and male strengths of the RFA, latest figures available.*

*1.b. May I see a breakdown of RFA female and male ranks and rates?*

*1.c. Is it possible to see who does what job, or even just m and f in each branch?*

**2. RESERVES** Please supply the latest available figures for total numbers and numbers of females in:

*a. Regular Reserves.*

*b. Volunteer Reserves:*

*c. Royal Marines Reserve: how many are women, if any? Are they all Band Service?.*

*d. Sponsored Reserve:*

*e. University Royal Naval Units:*

*2.f. Maritime reserve outflow: the total outflow rate was 25.1 %. Can I see this broken down into male and female stats please?*

**3. TOTALS.**

*Please break down the total RNRM strength to show latest numbers of women in both the RN and in the RM (separately).'*

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds information in scope of your request.

Full Information with regard to your first query, concerning a gender breakdown for members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) is set out in the Annex attached to this letter.

Regarding your second question asking for a gender breakdowns of of Naval Service reserve forces by the categories you have listed, the information as of 1 October 2016 is as follows:

- a. **Regular Reserves.** Gender breakdowns of Regular Reserves are only available for those who are mobilised and serving. Of the 550 serving Regular Reserve personnel 50 were female.
- b. **Volunteer Reserves.** These are now entitled "Maritime Reserves". Of the 3,480 Maritime Reserve personnel, 520 were female.
- c. **Royal Marine Reserve.** Of the 890 Royal Marine Reserve personnel, none were female. The announcement to remove the exclusion of women from RM and RM Reserve service was only made in July 2016, and given the current recruiting timelines, the first women won't commence RM training till late 2018, or more probably from Jan 2019.
- d. **Sponsored Reserve.** Of the 1780 Sponsored Reserve personnel in the Royal Navy, 90 were female.
- e. **University Royal Navy Units (URNUs).** Of the 780 personnel in the URNUs, 370 were female.
- f. **Maritime Reserve Outflow.** The Maritime Reserve total outflow rates in the 12 months ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 was 26.1%. The outflow rate for males and females during this time period were 24.3% and 35.6% respectively.

With regard to your third question asking for the total RN/RM strength by gender, this information is already published on a biannual basis as at 1 April and 1 October in the MOD diversity statistics publication at this hyperlink:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2016>

Excel Table 1 in the publication - Strength of UK Regular Forces by NATO Rank and Gender (rows 126 to 143) has information on the number of women in the RN and RM separately.

The Ministry of Defence is permitted to withhold information where an exemption is considered justifiable. As the information you requested is already available to the public we have assessed that your request falls under the absolute exemption at section 21 – Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means – of the Act. Consequently, we are not obliged to provide you with a copy of the information.

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, Zone D, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

**RFA Gender Breakdown by Grade  
As at 1 January 2017**

**Headcount correct at 1 Jan 17  
Grades correct at 13 Mar 17**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Personnel Count</b>	<b>Female Count</b>	<b>Male Count</b>
CDRE (Engineer)	~	0	~
CDRE (Executive)	~	0	~
CAPT (Engineer)	20	0	20
CAPT (Executive)	20	0	20
Chief/Officer (Engineer)	15	0	15
Chief /Officer (Logistics Supply)	10	~	10
Chief/Officer (Systems Electrical)	15	0	15
Chief/Officer (Executive)	20	0	20
1st/Officer (Engineer)	20	~	20
1st/Officer (Logistics Supply)	20	~	20
1st/Officer (Systems Electrical)	15	0	15
1st/Officer (Executive)	25	~	25
2nd/Officer (Communications)	25	0	25
2nd/Officer (Engineer)	55	~	55
2nd/Officer (Logistics Supply)	15	~	10
2nd/Officer (Systems Electrical)	40	~	40
2nd Officer(Executive)	35	5	30
3rd/Officer (Communications)	5	0	5
3rd/Officer (Engineer)	115	10	110
3rd/Officer (Logistics Supply)	10	~	10
3rd/Officer (Systems Electrical)	50	~	50
3rd Officer (Engineer)	105	10	95
CPO (Communications)	10	0	10
CPO (Carpenter)	~	0	~
CPO (Chef)	15	0	15
CPO (Executive)	25	0	25
CPO (Engineer)	20	0	20
CPO (Supply Chain)	15	0	15
CPO (STWD)	5	0	5
MED TECH	25	~	20
PO (Communications)	20	~	20
PO (Chef)	15	0	15
PO (Executive)	25	0	25
PO (Engineer)	45	0	45
PO (Supply Chain)	10	~	10

PO (STWD)	15	~	10
LH (Communications)	30	~	25
LH (Chef)	20	0	20
LH (Executive)	50	~	50
LH (Engineer)	50	0	45
LH (Helicopter Controller)	15	~	10
LH (Supply Chain)	30	5	20
LH (STWD)	20	~	15
ASST (Chef)	50	~	50
Communications Rating 1	65	10	55
LAUNDRYMAN	25	0	25
Motor Man 1 (Engineering rating)	110	~	110
Seaman Grade 1A	225	5	220
Seaman Grade 1A (T)	15	~	10
Seaman Grade 1B (Trainee)	40	~	40
STWD	110	20	85
APP (Chef)	15	~	15
APP (Communications)	30	5	25
APP (Deck)	30	5	25
APP (Engineer)	20	0	20
APP (STWD)	15	5	10
Chef	~	0	~
Communications Rating 2 (Trainees)	~	0	~
Seaman Grade 2	~	~	~
CADET (Engineer)	30	~	25
CADET (Systems Electrical)	5	~	5
Cadet (Executive)	45	10	35
Cadet (Engineer)	~	0	~
Cadet (Executive)	~	0	~
TOTAL	1938	131	1807

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, the figures provided have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 5, and “~” denotes a number between 1 and 4. Due to the rounding method used linetotals may not always equal the sum of their parts. Column totals are the actual totals for the overall numbers of personnel.

