



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI2017 07584

[Redacted]

Date: 25/08/2017

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 26/07/2017 requesting the following information:

“Total numbers of persons under age 18 enlisted, total numbers of persons under 18 deployed abroad, total number of persons between the ages of 12 and 18 who are members of the Army Cadet Force...for each year 2012 - present”

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.

Regarding the number of people under age 18 recruited since 2012, the figures for recruitment in each financial year can be found in the Excel tables that accompany the 1 April 2017 edition of our Bi-Annual Diversity Statistics publication located at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2017>

The figures for intake to Regular Forces can be found on Table 8 and the figures for intake to the Future Reserves 2020 can be found on Table 23.

Regarding the numbers of personnel under 18 deployed abroad, please see the Table below for deployments in each financial year:

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Jan 2017- present
-	-	4	3	1	1

Service personnel under the age of 18 are not to deploy to any operations outside of the UK, except where the operation does not involve people becoming engaged in, or exposed to, hostilities. If during the operation the threat level were to increase, effort will be undertaken to remove personnel under the age of 18 from the operations.

Regarding the number of people aged 12-18 in the Army Cadets, please refer to the 1 April Edition of our Annual MOD Sponsored Cadet Forces Statistics located at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-sponsored-cadet-forces-statistics-2017>

The figures for strength of the cadet forces by age for each financial year can be found on Table 2 of the accompanying Excel spreadsheet.

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.uk

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)