

Changes to Ministry of Defence Personnel Statistics: Response to External Consultation

BACKGROUND

1. On 21 April 2017, the Ministry of Defence opened a consultation with stakeholders regarding proposed changes to Personnel Statistics.
2. These personnel statistics are primarily counts of Armed Forces and Civilian personnel (strengths), those joining (intake) and those leaving (outflow), reported by various categories of interest. Military strength counts are reported against requirement figures for the UK Regular Armed Forces, which enables surpluses and deficits to be calculated.
3. Personnel statistics are currently published in ten National and Official Statistics Releases on the GOV.UK website¹. The publications are as follows:

| Military | Civilian |
|---|--|
| Quarterly Location Statistics | |
| Monthly Service Personnel Statistics | Quarterly Civilian Personnel Report |
| Biannual Diversity Statistics | Biannual Civilian Diversity Dashboard |
| Annual Sponsored Cadets Statistics | Annual Civilian Performance Management Outcomes |
| Royal Navy and Royal Marines Monthly Personnel Situation Report | Civilian Personnel Sickness Absence Quarterly Report |
| Royal Navy and Royal Marines Quarterly Pocket Brief | |

Table 1: Ministry of Defence (Personnel Statistics and Analysis) publications.

4. Following an internal review of content, we sought further user views on the proposals for the cessation or reduced frequency of some of these personnel statistics.
5. The consultation period ended on 2 June 2017.

RESULTS

6. There were **no** responses to the consultation from external stakeholders. As a result, MOD will be implementing all the changes in publication frequency proposed in the consultation. These are shown in Table 2.
7. The *Royal Navy and Royal Marines Monthly Personnel Situation Report* and *Royal Navy and Royal Marines Quarterly Pocket Brief* will cease to be published. Top-level Royal Navy/Royal Marines strength breakdowns previously provided in these publications will instead be included in *Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics*.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/statistics>

| Publication | Current Frequency | Proposed Frequency |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monthly Service Personnel Statistics | Monthly | Quarterly |
| Quarterly Location Statistics | Quarterly | Annual |
| Quarterly Civilian Personnel Report | Quarterly | Bi-annual |
| Civilian Personnel Sickness Absence Quarterly Report | Quarterly | Annual |
| Royal Navy and Royal Marines Monthly Personnel Situation Report | Monthly | - |
| Royal Navy and Royal Marines Quarterly Pocket Brief | Quarterly | - |

Table 2: Ministry of Defence (Personnel Statistics and Analysis) proposed publication frequency changes.

8. These changes will be incrementally implemented during FY 2017-18. Release dates for future editions of all Personnel Statistics - including those with revised frequencies - will be pre-announced on GOV.UK in the Calendar of Upcoming Statistical Releases².

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>