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22 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 1 March in which you requested the following information:

*'I would like figures on the number of Commonwealth soldiers promoted from 1990 to 2017 from the rank of private to WO1. Including male and female, I would like the figures for each rank. I would also like figures for British Born soldiers within the ranks stated above'*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that some of the information you requested is not held by the Ministry of Defence. The information which is held is attached.

The Ministry of Defence only hold nationality information from July 1996 onwards, prior to this nationality data is not held.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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](mailto: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/>.

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure and Litigation Leader

## Number of British and Commonwealth Soldiers in the Regular Army Promoted by Paid Rank between 1996-2017

1. I would like the figures on the number of Commonwealth Soldiers promoted from 1990 to 2017 from the rank of private to WO1, including male and female, I would like the figures for each rank.
2. I would also like figures for British Born soldiers within the ranks stated above

**Table 1: Number of Commonwealth Soldiers Promoted between 1st July 1996 and 31st December 2017 by Paid Rank**

Promotions:	Male	Female
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,930</b>	<b>1,550</b>
to WO1	40	-
to WO2	110	10
to SSGT	370	40
to SGT	1,120	130
to CPL	3,440	410
to LCPL	7,850	970

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

**Table 2: Number of British and Commonwealth Soldiers by Paid Rank as at 1st January 2018**

Paid Rank	British	Commonwealth
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,460</b>	<b>3,890</b>
WO1	1,280	-
WO2	3,680	40
SSgt	5,230	190
Sgt	7,330	430
Cpl	11,140	1,010
LCpl	11,570	1,110
Pte	17,220	1,100

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

**Table 3: Number of British Soldiers Promoted between 1st July 1996 and 31st December 2017 by Paid Rank**

Promotions:	Soldiers
<b>Total</b>	<b>366,520</b>
to WO1	15,180
to WO2	29,740
to SSGT	45,520
to SGT	58,070
to CPL	87,030
to LCPL	130,980

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

### Notes/Caveats:

The figures are for trained Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, Army Reserve and all other Reserves, but includes those personnel that have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.

"Legacy" data is only available up to the 28th February 2007 due to the introduction of JPA. Data has been provided up until the 31st January 2007.

For data between 1st July 1996 to 31st January 2007, figures are for Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, TA and all other Reserves.

For data between 1st July 1996 to 31st January 2007, Nationality is that at birth and is not necessarily the same as currently recorded or when recruited.

For data recorded between 1st February 2007 and 31st December 2017, Nationality is given as that at time of Paid Rank promotion and may not necessarily be the same as that at time of birth.

Prior to 1980 Zimbabwe was known as Rhodesia. Rhodesia was not a member of the Commonwealth. Zimbabwe was suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth in February 2002. Zimbabwe withdrew from the Commonwealth on 7 December 2003 after the suspension was renewed at the Commonwealth Leaders' meeting. An Act of Parliament is required to affect the status of its citizens if a country withdraws from the Commonwealth. For the purpose of this information Zimbabwe is included in Commonwealth.

Please note that the total number of Commonwealth personnel serving in the Regular Army has greatly increased since 1997 (c415 in 1997 to c6750 in 2007 and at January 2018, c3886). This lower proportionality of Commonwealth soldiers serving within the Regular Army may be the cause of the low promotion numbers which are observed amongst the Commonwealth population, particularly at the higher soldier paid ranks where numbers are small.

Due to the renaming of the British Dependent Territories under the British Overseas Territories Act 2002 to British Overseas Territories, Gibraltar, Ascension Islands, St Helena and Montserrat are now included in the UK Total figure.

Figures have been rounded to 10 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

"-" denotes zero or rounded to zero.

Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.