



This annual publication presents figures on the number of **Cadets** and **Adult Volunteers** in the Cadet Forces sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. (MOD)

Statistics are provided for the Community Cadets (the **Sea Cadet Corps** and **Volunteer Cadet Corps**, **Army Cadet Force** and **Air Training Corps**) and the **Combined Cadet Force**. More detailed statistics and historic time series can be found in the [Excel Tables](#). The Volunteer Cadet Corps is included in these statistics for the first time, as its status changed to become the fifth MOD sponsored cadet force in 2017.

This is the third publication in a new series of MOD Sponsored Cadets Statistics annual bulletins. Previous statistics on cadets can be found in the [UK Reserve Forces and Cadets](#) publications.

### Key Points and Trends

▲ 84 370	<b>Number of Cadets (Community Cadets)</b> At 1 April 2018 <i>Increase of 360 (+0.4%) since 1 April 2017</i>
▲ 43 400	<b>Number of Cadets (Combined Cadet Force)</b> At 1 April 2018 <i>Increase of 1 330 (+3.2%) since 1 April 2017</i>
▼ 24 100	<b>Number of Adult Volunteers (Community Cadets)</b> At 1 April 2018 <i>Decrease of 310 (-1.3%) since 1 April 2017</i>
▲ 3 640	<b>Number of Adult Volunteers (Combined Cadet Force)</b> At 1 April 2018 <i>Increase of 230 (+6.7%) since 1 April 2017</i>
▲ 32.3%	<b>Proportion of female Cadets (Community Cadets)</b> At 1 April 2018 <i>Increase from 31.9% since 1 April 2017</i>
▲ 32.1%	<b>Proportion of female Cadets (Combined Cadet Force)</b> At 1 April 2018 <i>Increase from 31.6% since 1 April 2017</i>

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**Background quality report:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-reserve-forces-and-mod-sponsored-cadets-strengths-background-quality-report>

Would you like to be added to our **contact list**, so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics 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)

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Supplementary tables containing further statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-sponsored-cadet-forces-statistics-2018>

The Background Quality Report is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-reserve-forces-and-mod-sponsored-cadets-strengths-background-quality-report>

## Introduction

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This annual publication presents figures on the number of **Cadets** and **Adult Volunteers** in the Cadet Forces sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. It includes age and gender breakdowns of the Cadets, and gender breakdowns of the Adult Volunteers.

The Ministry of Defence sponsors and supports five Cadet Forces (voluntary youth organisations). They comprise the Community Cadets (**Sea Cadet Corps, Volunteer Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force** and **Air Training Corps**) and the school-based **Combined Cadet Force**, whose contingents contain one or more sections from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army or Royal Air Force.

The Cadet Forces provide young people with interesting and challenging activities as part of a stimulating syllabus that develops valuable life skills. In addition, the Cadet Forces encourage young people to take an interest in Defence and the Armed Forces and, for those considering careers in the Services, shows them the various opportunities that exist.

The Cadet Forces are not part of the Armed Forces, and members of the Cadet Forces do not have any liability for military service or compulsory training in the Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve).

The next edition of this publication is scheduled to be released on GOV.UK at 9.30am on 30 May 2019. A calendar of upcoming MOD statistical releases can be found on **GOV.UK**.

### A National Statistics publication

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This publication has since undergone a change in presentation following a public consultation, though the underlying methodology of producing the data remains unchanged. The MOD continues to seek feedback from users to ensure this publication is meeting user needs.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

# Background and Context

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## Key Policies

### MOD Single Departmental Plan

The MOD's Single Departmental Plan: 2015 to 2020<sup>1</sup> states under the third objective, "Promote Our Prosperity", that the Department will contribute to the UK's wider skills and citizenship development that supports British society through the Cadet Forces, and addresses the commitment to increasing the number of cadet units in schools.

### Cadet 2020 Strategy

The Cadet Force 2020 Strategy (CF2020) was initiated in March 2015 to bring together current MOD and single-Service initiatives and recommendations from past reviews of MOD's youth engagement and cadet activity. It establishes a clear tri-Service vision and direction of travel for the MOD's Cadet Forces to 2020, while seeking to deliver coherence, innovation and value for money across the cadet organisations. The strategy recognises that the critical success factor for the Cadet Forces is the continuing commitment of sufficient, high-quality adult volunteers to deliver the cadet experience.

### Cadet Expansion Programme

The Cadet Expansion Programme<sup>2</sup> (CEP) was launched in June 2012 by the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, with an initial aim of establishing 100 new cadet units in English state-funded secondary schools by September 2015. Following successful delivery of this target the Government has committed £50m from LIBOR fines to cover set up costs, uniforms, equipment and training to grow the total number of cadet units in schools across the UK to 500 by 2020.

### Safeguarding

Safeguarding young people is our priority and we have robust procedures in place to protect cadets. This includes mandatory security and background checks for all adults who work with children, rigorous disclosure procedures and regular safeguarding training.

### Volunteer Cadet Corps

The Volunteer Cadet Corps is included in these statistics for the first time, as its status changed to become the fifth MOD sponsored cadet force in 2017.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-single-departmental-plan-2015-to-2020/single-departmental-plan-2015-to-2020>

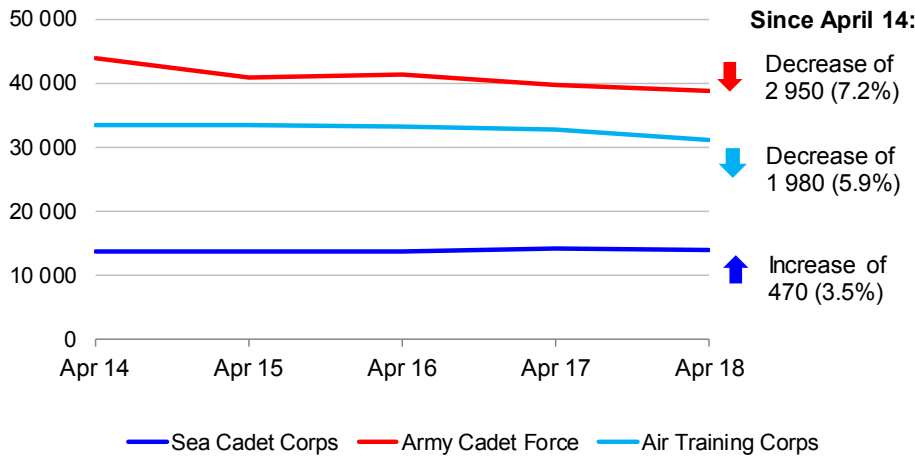
<sup>2</sup> <http://combinedcadetforce.org.uk/schools-expansion-programme/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/defence-secretary-announces-latest-wave-of-cadet-units-in-schools--2>

# Community Cadets

As at 1 April 2018, there were 84,370 cadets in the Community Cadets, made up of 14,100 Sea Cadets, 580 in the Volunteer Cadet Corps, 38,080 Army Cadets and 31,610 Air Cadets. There continue to be decreases in the overall number of cadets since 2014 (88,260 cadets), influenced mainly by the decrease in Army Cadet numbers seen in Figure 1. The number of Air Cadets has also reduced over this period, while the Sea Cadets has increased. Volunteer Cadet Corps numbers are not shown in Figure 1 due to their relatively small size.

**Figure 1: Number of Cadets in the Community Cadets**



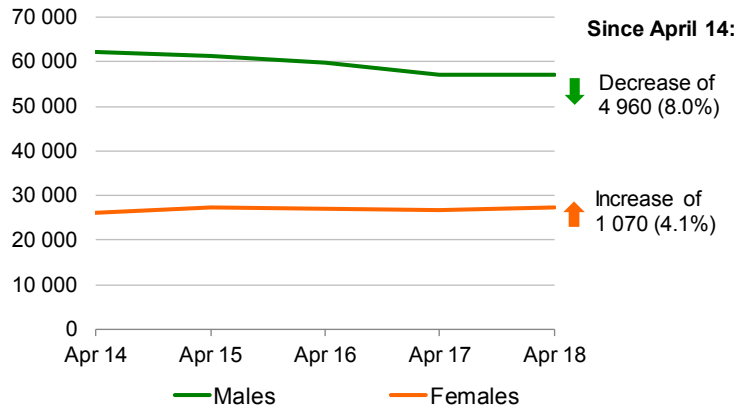
**Community Cadet Forces** include the Sea Cadet Corps (SCC), Volunteer Cadet Corps (VCC), Army Cadet Force (ACF) and Air Training Corps (ATC). See [glossary](#).

**Adult Volunteers** include uniformed and non-uniformed volunteers (see [glossary](#)).

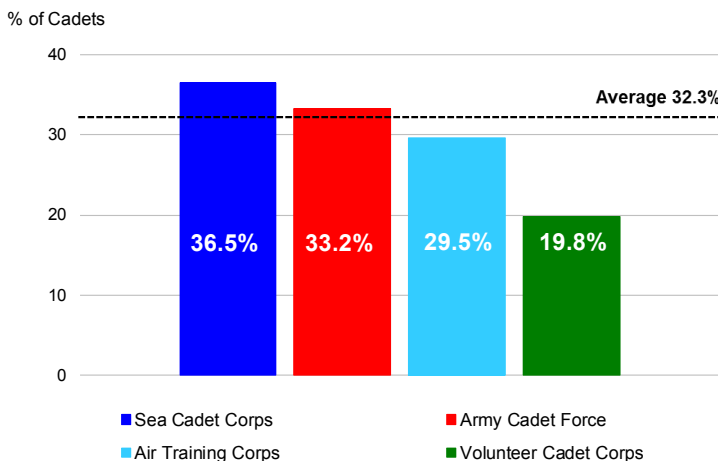
## Gender

Female representation in the Community Cadet Forces has increased slightly, rising to 32.3% in 2018 compared with 29.7% in 2014. However, while the number of female cadets has increased (see Figure 2), the rise in the proportion of female cadets can be attributed to the decrease in the number of male cadets over the same period.

**Figure 2: Number of Cadets in the Community Cadets by gender**



**Figure 3: Proportion of Female Cadets in the Community Cadets as at 1 Apr 18**



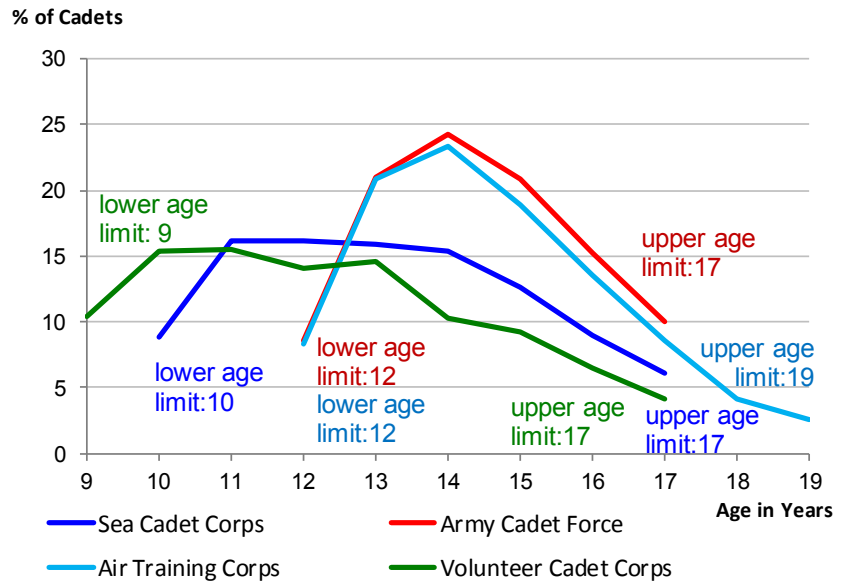
The Sea Cadet Corps had the highest proportion of female cadets at 1 April 2018 (36.5%) compared with the Army Cadet Force (33.2%) the Air Training Corps (29.5%) and the Volunteer Cadet Corps (19.8%) shown in Figure 3. Following slight increases to the number of female cadets in the last few years, the SCC, ACF and ATC reached their highest number of female cadets in April 2018.

# Community Cadets

## Age

Due to varying age restrictions<sup>1</sup> in each of the cadet forces, different age distributions can be observed (Figure 4). There is a higher representation of younger cadets in the Sea Cadet Corps, whose largest age group is 12 year olds (16.2% of cadets) and the Volunteer Cadet Corps at 11 year olds (15.5%) compared with the Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps, whose largest age groups are 14 year olds (24.3% and 23.3% of cadets respectively).

**Figure 4: Age Distribution of Cadets in the Community Cadets as at 1 Apr 18**



## Adult Volunteers

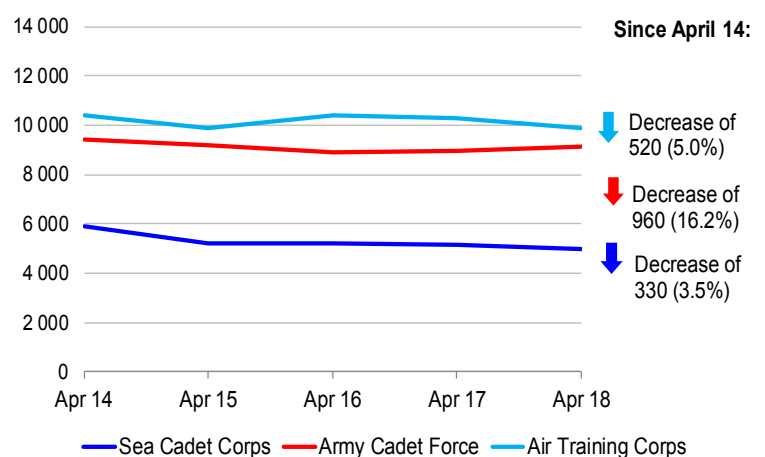
As at 1 April 2018, there were 24,100 Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAVs) in the Community Cadets, made up of 4,960 in the Sea Cadet Corps, 120 in the Volunteer Cadet Corps, 9,110 in the Army Cadet Force and 9,910 in the Air Training Corps. Figure 5 shows the changes in CFAV numbers across the Community Cadets since April 2014.

## Gender

Sea Cadet Corps had the highest proportion of female Adult Volunteers at 1 April 2018 (32.7%) - more than the Army Cadet Force (29.3%) and the Air Training Corps (26.9%).

While there is a greater proportion of males in both the Uniformed and Non-Uniformed Volunteers, the gender difference is greater in the Uniformed population (73.4% male) compared with Non-Uniformed Volunteers (65.9% male). Volunteer Cadet Corps numbers are not shown in Figure 5 due to small numbers.

**Figure 5: Number of Adult Volunteers in the Community Cadets**



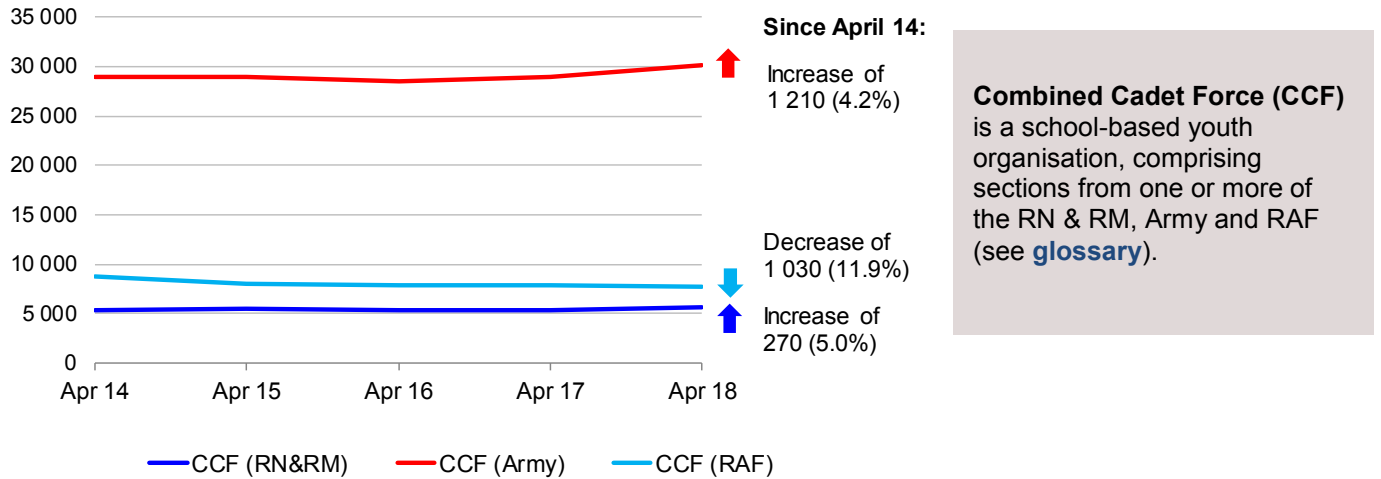
## Adult to Cadet Ratio

The overall ratio of cadets to each Adult Volunteer at 1 April 2018 was 3.5, with variations between the Cadet Forces. Please note that this ratio may differ across individual cadet units, and may reflect the different Adult Volunteer skills and knowledge requirements across the cadet forces.

# Combined Cadet Force

As at 1 April 2018, there were 43,400 cadets in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), made up of 5,640 cadets in the RN & RM sections, 30,100 in the Army sections and 7,660 in the RAF sections. In the past year the number of cadets in the CCF (Army) has risen by 4.0%.

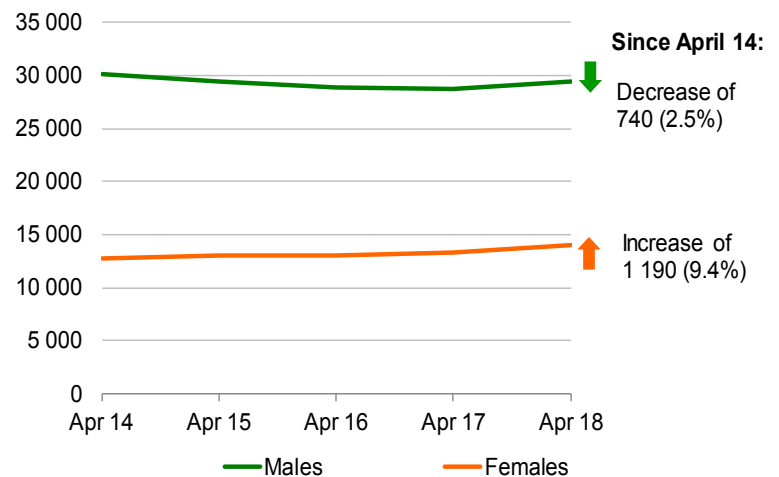
**Figure 6: Number of Cadets in the Combined Cadet Force**



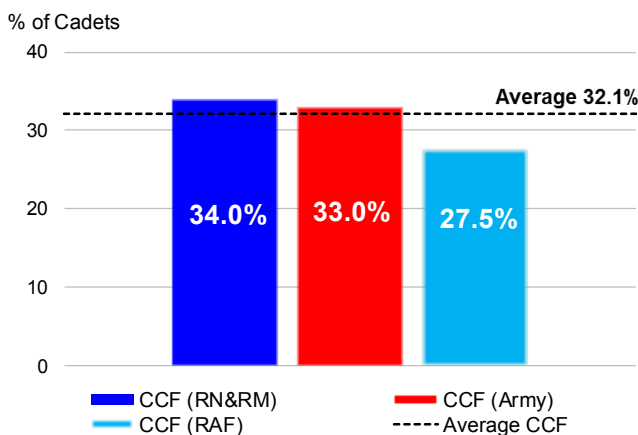
## Gender

Female representation in the CCF has increased slightly, rising to 32.1% in 2018 compared with 29.7% in 2014. While the overall number of female cadets has increased, the rise in the proportion of female cadets can partly be attributed to the decrease in the number of male cadets over the same period (see Figure 7).

**Figure 7: Number of Cadets in the Combined Cadet Force by gender**



**Figure 8: Proportion of Female Cadets in the Combined Cadet Force as at 1 April 18**



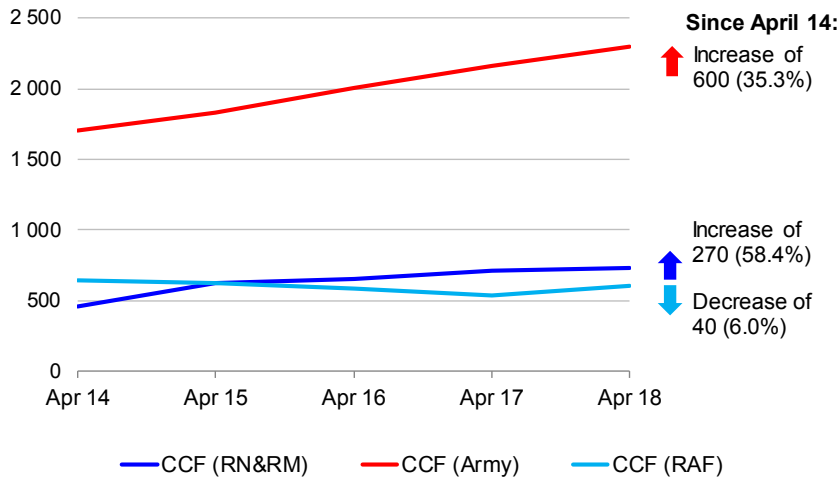
At 1 April 2018, the CCF RN & RM sections had the highest proportion of female cadets (34.0%) compared with the Army sections (33.0%) and the RAF sections (27.5%).

# Combined Cadet Force

## Adult Volunteers

As at 1 April 2018, there were 3,640 Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAVs) in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), made up of 730 in the RN & RM sections, 2,300 in the Army sections and 610 in the RAF sections. Figure 9 shows the changes in CFAV numbers across the CCF since 2014.

**Figure 9: Number of Adult Volunteers in the Combined Cadet Force**



**Combined Cadet Force (CCF)** is a school-based youth organisation, comprising sections from one or more of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and the Royal Air Force (see [glossary](#)).

## Adult Volunteers Gender

The RAF sections had the highest proportion of female CFAVs at 1 April 2018 (33.1%) compared with the RN & RM sections (32.0%) and the Army sections (29.0%). While there is a greater proportion of males in both the Uniformed and Non-Uniformed Volunteers, the gender difference is greater in the Uniformed population (72.5% male) compared with Non-Uniformed Volunteers (59.8% male).

## Adult to Cadet Ratio

The overall ratio of Combined Cadet Force Cadets to each Adult Volunteer at 1 April 2018 was 11.9 with variations between the sections. Please note that this ratio may differ across individual cadet units.

## Further Information

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### Rounding

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. For example; a value of “25” would be rounded down to “20” and a value of “15” would be rounded up to “20”.

Totals and sub-totals are rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

Percentages are calculated from unrounded data and presented to one decimal place.

### Revisions

There are revisions to the April 2017 data in this year’s bulletin.

### Data sources:

Data are derived from several management information systems which the individual Cadet Force Headquarters use to administer their Cadets and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers.

### Symbols

	Discontinuity in time series
*	not applicable
..	not available
–	Zero
~	5 or fewer
p	Provisional
e	Estimate
r	Revised

*Italic* figures are used for percentages and other rates, except where otherwise indicated.

### Contact Us

Defence Statistics welcome feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about our statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

**Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)** Telephone: 020 7807 8896

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If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you may wish to submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence.

For more information, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

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# Glossary

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**Air Training Corps (ATC)** aims to promote and encourage an interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force among young people from age 12 up to 20 years, by providing training which may be useful both in the services and in civilian life.

**Army Cadet Force (ACF)**, through a broad range of challenging, educational and adventurous activities gives young people (12-18) the opportunity to develop leadership and team-working skills, builds their confidence and helps them develop physically, mentally and socially.

**Cadet Forces** The Ministry of Defence sponsors and supports five cadet forces (military-themed voluntary youth organisations). The cadet forces comprise the Sea Cadet Corps (SCC), the Volunteer Cadet Corps (VCC), Combined Cadet Force (CCF), Army Cadet Force (ACF) and Air Training Corps (ATC). The Cadet Forces are not part of the Armed Forces and have no operational role; nor are they conduits for entry into the Armed Forces.

**Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAVs)** The cadet forces could not exist without the support of adults who volunteer to help train cadets, run meetings, activities and events. No previous military experience is necessary and adult volunteers are not liable for military call up. This includes uniformed and non-uniformed volunteers. Like cadets, the adult volunteers can obtain vocational qualifications linked to community, social action and volunteering during their time with the cadets.

**Combined Cadet Force (CCF)** is a unique educational partnership which operates in schools across the UK. Through military-themed activities, cadets have the opportunity to develop skills such as leadership, self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance. CCF contingents contain one or more sections from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army or the Royal Air Force, and promote the aims and values of the Services they represent.

**Community Cadets** comprise the Sea Cadet Corps, the Volunteer Cadet Corps, the Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps.

**Ministry of Defence (MOD)** is the United Kingdom government department responsible for the development and implementation of government defence policy and the headquarters of the British Armed Forces. The principal objective of the MOD is to defend the United Kingdom and its interests. The MOD also manages day to day running of the Armed Forces, contingency planning and defence procurement.

**Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC)** includes CCF (RAF) and the Air Training Corps (ATC).

**Sea Cadet Corps (SCC)** (including Royal Marines Cadets) aims to give young people from age 12 up to their 18th birthday the best possible start in life through nautical adventure and fun. There is also a Junior Section for young people between 10 and 12 years. Sea Cadets is the largest national maritime voluntary youth charity, which is part-sponsored by and follows the customs and traditions of the Royal Navy.

**Volunteer Cadet Corps (VCC)** aims to provide opportunities for young people, from aged 9 up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, to develop into dependable and useful members of society, employing the traditions of the Royal Navy (RN) and Royal Marines (RM), as the basis for their activities. VCC units (RN & RM) are based at Royal Naval service establishments and are organised and run by volunteers including serving members of the RN and RM. The VCC's status changed in 2017 to become the fifth MOD sponsored cadet force.

## Glossary

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<b>Cadet Force</b>	<b>Lower age limit</b>	<b>Upper age limit</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Sea Cadet Corps	10 years (10-12 for Junior Sea Cadets) (13 for Royal Marines Cadets)	18th birthday	-
Volunteer Cadet Corps	9 years	18th birthday	-
Combined Cadet Force	Year 8 <sup>1</sup> or later at the discretion of the Head, noting specific restrictions may apply for individual sections.	To the end of the summer holiday of their final year of school.	-
Army Cadet Force	12 years and in Year 8 <sup>1</sup>	18th birthday	The upper age limit was lowered from 18 years 9 months in September 2015. Cadets aged 17 years or over on 1 September 2015 could continue until they reach 18 years 9 months.
Air Training Corps	12 years and in Year 8 <sup>1</sup>	20th birthday	The lower age limit was lowered from 13 years in September 2014.

<sup>1</sup> S2 in Scotland and Year 9 in Northern Ireland