



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: Army/Sec/13/4/FOI2018/05822

E-mail: ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
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22 May 2018

Dear xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,

Thank you for your email of 27 April clarifying FOI2018/05423. You have now requested the following information:

'1. Whether there were black African nationality individuals who commissioned as officers in the British Army before August 2003 (ie, from RMA Sandhurst), how many there were, and from which countries they came?

2. Whether there were black Zimbabwean nationality individuals who commissioned as officers in the British Army before August 2003 (ie, from RMA Sandhurst), and - if so - how many there were?

3. How many Zimbabwean officers there are in the British Army at present, and how many of those are black?

****The above questions relate to people of Zimbabwean nationality, and/or other African nationality, and - not those with a Black African ethnicity in general (ie, not Black African ethnicity people with British citizenship)*

4. How many black African officers there are in the British Army at present?

5. How many black officers (Caribbean or African heritage) are in the British Army at present?

***The above two questions relate to anyone declaring Black African ethnicity, whatever their nationality might be (ie,, including British nationals, and the nationals of other non-African countries).'*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held and is detailed in the tables below.

Please note that:

- Figures are comprised of trade trained Regular Army Officers only, and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, Army Reserve and all other Reserves. British Army Soldiers have also been excluded.

- Figures comprise of nationality and ethnicity as recorded on the Personnel Administrative Systems. Nationality is that recorded at the date presented and is not necessarily their nationality at birth or when recruited.
- Nationality is not recorded in the data held before 1997.
- The data has been rounded to the nearest 5 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.
- “~” represents fewer than 5
- “-” denotes zero

Table 1: British Army Officers with an African nationality by ethnicity type serving on 1st April 1997-2003 (Question 1)

This table includes African Officers who were on strength at the 1 April of each year recorded. However, they may have commissioned at any point prior to this date. Additionally, this means the same people could be recorded on strength across all yearly points. African nationalities recorded include; Egyptian, Ghanaian, Kenyan, Nigerian, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudanese, Ugandan and Zimbabwean. Black nationalities have been grouped into the ethnic grouping of 'black', and White, Unknown and Other nationalities have been grouped into 'Other'.

| Ethnicity Type | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total | 25 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 55 |
| Black | ~ | ~ | ~ | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Other | 20 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 |

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Table 2: British Army Officers with a Zimbabwean nationality by ethnicity type serving on 1st April 1997-2003 & 1st October 2017 (Question 2 and 3)

This table is comprised of Zimbabwean Officers who were recorded on strength at the 1 April of each year and 1 October 2017. However, they may have commissioned at any point prior to this date. This means the same people could be recorded on strength across all the yearly points. Black nationalities have been grouped into the ethnic grouping of 'black', and White and Unknown nationalities have been grouped into 'Other'.

| Ethnicity Type | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 1 October 2017 |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Total | 15 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | ~ |
| Black | - | - | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | - |
| Other | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 20 | ~ |

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Table 3: British Army Officers by ethnicity type at 1st October 2017 (Question 4 and 5)

This table is comprised of Officers who have a recorded ethnicity of Black African or Black Caribbean (the two direct black ethnic types available to tick on the Personnel Administrative Systems) regardless of their nationality at 1 October 2017.

| Ethnicity Type | 2017 |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Total | 45 |
| Black African | 30 |
| Black Caribbean | 15 |

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to know that the UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics 2018 which will include data up to 1 April, is due to be published on 31 May. You will be able to find these statistics from the below link.

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

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). 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,

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