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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

23 July 2018

Dear XXXXXXXXXX

Thank you for your email of 25 June in which you requested the following information:

Commonwealth Soldiers from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines who enlisted in the Military from 2001. I would like to request under the Freedom of Information Act, a breakdown by year and ranks (OR and OF) of the number of Vincentians served and serving in the Armed Forces please.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 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 has been provided in the table below. Please note, the table is for Other Ranks only as there are no Officers recorded with Vincentian nationality. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at Section 40 (Personal Information) of the FOIA and has been withheld. Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you still 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,

XXXXXXX
Army Secretariat

Strength of Vincentian Other Ranks by year

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
RN/RM							150	190	205	235	240	230	215	205	200	180	170	185
Army	~	110	165	265	280	275	265	240	265	340	330	320	315	285	245	220	205	225
RAF							~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~

These figures include Trained Regulars for Royal Navy/Royal Marines and RAF and Trade Trained Regulars for Army and excludes Reserves.

The figures refer to personnel who were on strength at 1st April in the given year, and not those who joined during this time period. For example, the 225 personnel on strength at 1st April 2018 could have entered the Army at any time prior to 1st April 2018.

There are no Officers recorded with a Vincentian nationality.

Nationality is that currently recorded, and not is necessarily the same as at birth or when recruited.

No nationality data is available for Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force prior to 2007.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality. “~” denotes fewer than 5.