

**Navy Command FOI Section
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Ref: FOI2018/01823

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Via email: [REDACTED]

18 April 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Further to our correspondence of 4 April 2018, I am now in a position to provide you with a substantive response to your request for information on the number of job losses and appointments at HM Naval Base Clyde, both before and after the Scottish Referendum vote (18 September 2014), for the period 2009 to date.

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

A search for the information you requested has been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and information in scope of your request is held in the form of UK regular Service and civilian personnel numbers for the Argyll and Bute region of Scotland. This region encompasses Her Majesty's Navy Base Clyde and the associated Royal Naval Armaments Depot at Coulport Helensburgh, which is integral to the Naval Base. The information can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-uk-regular-service-and-civilian-personnel-quarterly-statistics-2017>

I should point out that we can only provide information from April 2012. This is contained in the "Quarterly Location Statistics: 1 October 2017 (updated 13 February 2018)" excel spreadsheet, Section 5 "Scotland", Table 5.1ab (MOD Personnel by Local Authority Area) under the Argyll & Bute Local Authority.

The MOD is permitted to withhold information where an exemption is considered justifiable. As the information you requested is already available to the public, we have assessed your request falls under the absolute exemption at section 21 – information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means – of the Act. Consequently, we are not obliged to provide you with the information.

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

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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section