



Ministry  
of Defence



DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment)

[DESSEC-PolSecLE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DESSEC-PolSecLE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk)



Via:

Defence Equipment & Support  
Maple 0a # 2043  
MOD Abbey Wood  
Bristol BS34 8JH



25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Our Ref: FOI2018/10029

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018 requesting the following information:

*I would like to know how much mail the British Forces Post Office at Northolt has sorted and dispatched to overseas BFPO addresses in the last 10 years. Figures are to be for both letters and parcels and both weight and numbers of items are to be shown; figures are not required for Protectively Marked Material.*

*Also, how many staff are employed by HQ BFPO over the past 10 years. Numbers are to include any agency staff if hired and those employed at Defence Mail Centres but not those staff directly employed under the banner of the Defence Courier Service. Figures are to be shown by military and civilian and include grades/ranks.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, we informed you that some of the information related to your request fell within the scope of qualified exemption: Section 43 (Commercial Interests). As such we needed to conduct a Public Interest Test, to determine whether in the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. In this instance we have found in favour of disclosure.

Please see below, information in the scope of your request. It is important to note the following caveats;

- verified staffing data for the years 2008-2011 is not retained by BFPO records;
- the figures include Defence Mail Centres (DMC) and agency staff, but not staff employed directly in delivery of Defence Courier Service (DCS) outputs;
- the military and civilian staffing figures represent an average across each year, to account for starters and leavers throughout the year;
- in the years prior to 2017, DE&S retained Broader Banded Civil Service Grades and the British Forces Post Office's (BFPO) permanently employed civilian members (excluding those employed in DCS) fell amongst the following non-Industrial grades:
  - Band C1
  - Band C2
  - Band D
  - Band E1
  - Band E2
- since 2017 a new organisational structure is in place which has amalgamated some of the bandings;
- Manpower Substitutes (Agency Staff) were employed as Industrial Skill Zone 3 Drivers, non-Industrial Band E2 Mail Operators;
- prior to the introduction of the Postal and Courier Electronic Recording System (PACER), the DPS did not record the number of individual items.

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.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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,

DE&S Policy Secretariat (Land Equipment)

BFPO Manpower 2012-2017

	C1	C2	C2 Military Support Function (MSF)	D	E1	E2	Storekeeper	Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	Lieutenant	Captain	Warrant Officer Class 1	Warrant Officer Class 2	Staff Sergeant	Sergeant	Petty Officer	Lance Corporal	Corporal	Manpower Substitution (MS)	All (excluding MS)	Mil	Civ
Jan-12	1	4	1	19	31	126	1	2	4	3	1	2	3	3	5	9	1	2	4	18	222	39	183
Feb-12	1	5	1	19	31	126	1	1	4	3	1	2	3	3	5	9	2	2	4	3	223	39	184
Mar-12	1	5	1	19	31	126	1	1	4	3	1	1	3	3	5	8	1	2	4	9	220	36	184
Apr-12	1	5	1	19	30	126	1	1	4	3	1	1	3	3	4	8	1	2	4	11	218	35	183
May-12	1	4	1	18	30	125	1	1	4	3	1	1	3	3	4	7	1	2	4	12	214	34	180
Jun-12	1	4	1	18	30	125	1	1	4	3	1	2	3	3	3	7	1	2	4	11	214	34	180
Jul-12	1	4	1	18	30	125	1	1	4	3	1	2	4	3	3	8	1	1	4	13	215	35	180
Aug-12	1	4	1	18	30	123	1	1	4	3	1	2	4	4	3	7	1	1	4	13	213	35	178
Sep-12	1	4	1	18	29	123	1	1	4	3	2	2	4	4	3	7	2	1	4	16	214	37	177
Oct-12	1	3	1	19	29	123	1	1	4	3	1	2	3	5	4	6	2	1	4	15	213	36	177
Nov-12	1	3	1	19	29	119	1	1	4	3	1	1	3	5	4	6	2	0	4	15	207	34	173
Dec-12	1	3	1	19	28	119	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	4	4	6	2	0	4	31	204	32	172
																				<b>14</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>179</b>

	C1	C2	C2 Military Support Function (MSF)	D	E1	E2	Storekeeper	Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	Lieutenant	Captain	Warrant Officer Class 1	Warrant Officer Class 2	Staff Sergeant	Sergeant	Petty Officer	Corporal	Manpower Substitute (MS)	All (excluding MS)	Mil	Civ
Jan-13	1	3	1	19	28	119	1	1	3	2	1	1	3	4	2	6	1	2	17	198	26	172
Feb-13	1	3	1	19	28	117	1	1	3	2	1	1	3	4	2	7	1	2	19	197	27	170
Mar-13	1	3	1	19	28	117	1	1	3	2	1	1	3	3	2	7	1	2	14	196	26	170
Apr-13	1	3	0	19	28	117	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	3	7	1	2	19	195	26	169
May-13	1	3	0	19	29	117	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	3	7	1	2	19	196	26	170
Jun-13	1	3	0	19	29	117	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	3	7	1	2	19	196	26	170
Jul-13	1	3	0	19	28	115	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	3	6	1	1	19	191	24	167
Aug-13	1	3	0	19	28	115	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	2	7	1	1	19	191	24	167
Sep-13	1	3	0	19	28	115	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	7	1	1	19	192	25	167
Oct-13	1	3	0	19	28	115	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	7	1	1	15	192	25	167
Nov-13	1	3	0	19	28	115	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	7	1	2	15	193	26	167
Dec-13	1	3	0	18	28	114	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	7	1	1	16	190	25	165
																			<b>18</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>168</b>

	C1	C2	C2 Military Support Function (MSF)	D	E1	E2	Storekeeper	Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	Lieutenant	Captain	Warrant Officer Class 1	Warrant Officer Class 2	Staff Sergeant	Sergeant	Petty Officer	Corporal	Manpower Substitute (MS)	All (excluding MS)	Mil	Civ
Jan-14	1	3	0	18	28	114	1	1	3	3	1	0	2	3	2	7	1	1	14	189	24	165
Feb-14	1	3	0	18	28	111	1	1	3	3	1	0	3	3	2	7	1	1	10	187	25	162
Mar-14	1	3	0	18	28	111	1	1	3	3	1	0	3	4	2	7	1	1	10	188	26	162
Apr-14	1	3	0	17	28	111	1	1	3	3	2	0	3	3	2	7	1	1	17	187	26	161
May-14	1	3	0	17	28	110	1	1	3	3	1	0	2	3	2	7	1	1	15	184	24	160
Jun-14	1	3	0	17	28	109	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	7	2	1	14	185	26	159
Jul-14	1	3	0	17	28	108	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	6	1	1	14	182	24	158
Aug-14	1	3	0	17	28	108	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	6	1	1	14	182	24	158
Sep-14	1	3	0	17	27	108	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	3	2	6	1	1	12	182	25	157
Oct-14	1	3	0	17	27	108	1	1	2	3	1	1	3	3	2	6	1	1	6	181	24	157
Nov-14	1	3	0	17	27	107	1	1	2	3	1	1	3	3	2	6	1	1	8	180	24	156
Dec-14	1	5	0	17	27	107	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	3	2	6	0	1	6	182	24	158
																			<b>12</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>159</b>

	C1	C2	C2 Military Support Function (MSF)	D	E1	E2	Storekeeper	Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	Lieutenant	Captain	Warrant Officer Class 1	Warrant Officer Class 2	Staff Sergeant	Sergeant	Petty Officer	Corporal	Manpower Substitute (MS)	All (excluding MS)	Mil	Civ
Jan-15	1	5	0	19	29	107	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	2	5	0	1	4	185	23	162
Feb-15	1	5	0	19	29	107	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	2	3	2	5	0	2	182	20	162
Mar-15	1	5	0	19	29	107	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	3	2	5	2	3	183	21	162
Apr-15	1	5	0	19	29	107	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	2	3	2	5	1	3	183	21	162
May-15	1	5	0	19	29	107	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	2	3	2	5	1	3	183	21	162
Jun-15	1	5	0	19	29	107	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	2	4	2	5	2	3	188	26	162
Jul-15	1	5	0	19	29	107	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	2	4	2	5	2	3	188	26	162
Aug-15	1	4	0	19	29	107	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	2	4	2	5	2	4	187	26	161
Sep-15	1	4	0	19	30	107	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	2	4	2	5	2	3	188	26	162
Oct-15	1	4	0	19	30	107	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	2	4	2	5	2	3	188	26	162
Nov-15	1	4	0	19	30	107	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	5	1	3	184	22	162
Dec-15	1	4	0	19	30	107	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	5	1	3	184	22	162
over 12 mo	1	5	0	19	29	107	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	3	2	5	1	3	185	23	162

	C1	C2	D	E1	E2	Storekeeper	Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	Lieutenant	Captain	Warrant Officer Class 1	Warrant Officer Class 2	Petty Officer	Staff Sergeant	Sergeant	Manpower Substitute (MS)	All (excluding MS)	Mil	Civ
Jan-16	1	5	19	25	100	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	5	1	174	23	151
Feb-16	1	5	18	25	98	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	5	4	171	23	148
Mar-16	1	5	18	25	99	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	6	4	173	24	149
Apr-16	1	5	19	25	99	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	5	4	173	23	150
May-16	1	5	19	25	97	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	5	4	171	23	148
Jun-16	1	5	19	25	97	1	1	3	3	0	0	4	5	1	3	5	4	173	25	148
Jul-16	1	4	19	25	99	1	1	3	3	1	0	4	4	1	3	4	5	173	24	149
Aug-16	1	4	19	25	98	1	1	3	3	1	0	3	3	1	3	4	6	170	22	148
Sep-16	1	4	19	25	102	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	4	6	174	22	152
Oct-16	1	4	17	24	100	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	4	6	169	22	147
Nov-16	1	4	18	24	100	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	4	4	170	22	148
Dec-16	1	4	18	24	100	1	1	3	3	1	0	2	3	1	3	5	3	170	22	148
																	<b>4</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>149</b>

	C1	C2	D	E1	E2	Storekeeper	Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	Lieutenant	Captain	Warrant Officer Class 1	Warrant Officer Class 2	Staff Sergeant	Sergeant	Petty Officer	Manpower Substitute (MS)	All (excluding MS)	Mil	Civ
Jan-17	1	5	19	33	98	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	5	1	2	179	22	157
Feb-17	1	5	20	32	99	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	5	1	2	180	22	158
Mar-17	1	5	20	31	102	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	5	1	2	182	22.00	160
Apr-17	0	4	19	138	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	5	2	2	3	0	2	184	22	162
May-17	0	4	20	138	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	5	2	2	3	0	3	185	22	163
Jun-17	0	4	21	137	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	4	2	2	3	0	3	184	21	163
Jul-17	0	4	23	132	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	4	2	2	3	0	3	181	21	160
Aug-17	0	4	22	131	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	4	2	2	3	0	3	179	21	158
Sep-17	0	4	20	130	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	4	2	2	3	0	3	176	21	155
Oct-17	0	4	20	132	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	4	2	2	3	0	3	178	21	157
Nov-17	0	4	20	131	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	4	2	2	3	0	3	177	21	156
Dec-17	0	4	20	130	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	4	2	2	3	0	3	176	21	155
																	<b>3</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>159</b>

**BFPO Weight & Number 2009-2018**

	FCO	DPS	Total
2009	266,108.69	3,319,696.00	3,585,804.69
2010	212,645.26	3,678,549.00	3,891,194.26
2011	165,646.18	3,679,340.88	3,844,987.06
2012	120,270.40	3,179,940.76	3,300,211.16
2013	131,458.66	2,533,973.86	2,665,432.52
2014	165,070.37	1,917,955.10	2,083,025.47
2015	188,061.81	1,358,761.75	1,546,823.56
2016	211,688.77	1,210,238.15	1,421,926.92
2017	231,626.05	1,256,618.35	1,488,244.40
	1,692,576.19	22,135,073.85	23,827,650.04

<b>FCO</b>				
Year	Volume (Kg)	Items	Type	Comments
2009	266108.69	280476	Official & Private	The last full year with both Official & Private (2010) was 92374 kgs above the 2012 figure which was the first full year of Private only. Since 2012 Private mail (and Ad hoc projects) has increased by 111355.65 Kg an increase of 92.59%
2010	212645.26	234124	Official & Private	
2011	165646.18	183985	Mid year Private only	
2012	120270.4	146120	Private	
2013	131458.66	167781	Private	
2014	165070.37	186781	Private	
2015	188061.81	199279	Private	
2016	211688.77	199173	Private	
2017	231626.05	198955	Private	
2018-date	139478.61	112594	Private	

<b>DPS</b>				
2009	3,319,696.00	435,712	Official & Private	Figures are from 2010 onwards – PACER 2 was installed.
2010	3,678,549.00	414,695	Official & Private	
2011	3,679,340.88	374,063	Official & Private	
2012	3,179,940.76	350,984	Official & Private	
2013	2,533,973.86	298,977	Official & Private	
2014	1,917,955.10	232,481	Official & Private	
2015	1,358,761.75	181,520	Official & Private	
2016	1,210,238.15	161,948	Official & Private	
2017	1,256,618.35	162,813	Official & Private	
2018-date	669,134.73	86,706	Official & Private	