



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2018/11066

[REDACTED]

Reply to: [REDACTED]

27 September 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

In your email of 27 August 2018 you requested the following information:

“In the past 10 years (if data for longer is easily accessible then that would be great) can you give me a breakdown of the various military personnel employed/based in and around the UK. Specifically I’d like to see the numbers broken down per country inside the UK per year as well as those numbers being broken down into each of the main sectors (Royal Navy, RAF, Armed Forces, MoD – keeping those serving separate from those working in civilian roles).

If future forecast numbers are available to be given out to the public, could you also add in those numbers.”

On 30 August 2018 you clarified that your request is for:

“each of the main sectors (Royal Navy/Army/Royal Air Force) presented/documentated separately. While at the same time I’d like to see the difference between the civilian role count and those serving.

For completeness including the MOD Civil service and the Reserved Forces for each Service would be ideal for what I am looking for as long as the data is presented to show the different subsets between the groupings (as in I don’t only wish to see a combined total for say the Army in England, I’d wish to see it broken down).

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

Thank you for the clarification. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds some information within scope of your request.

Information relating to this FOI request is set out at Annexes A to C to this letter. The data shows the number of Regular and Reserve personnel stationed in the UK by Service and country from 1 April 2013 to 1 April 2018.

In addition, statistics on the stationed location of all UK Regular service and civilian personnel, and all international global locations, are available online. The quarterly statistics on the location of all UK Regular Service and civilian personnel can be found at the link below:

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

Regarding your request for forecast figures, I advise you to consult the 'Votes A' figures which are laid in Parliament, for the forthcoming Financial Year. The information can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministry-of-defence-votes-a-2018-to-2019>

If a military person has been put into a civilian post in lieu of a civilian incumbent then only their basic details will appear against the post. This would not enable us to identify and conduct the sort of count which would be needed to extrapolate the requested information.

The FOI Act does not require us to create data only for the purposes of answering a request under the FOI Act. Therefore, I must inform you that no information is held to address your point regarding keeping personnel Serving separate from those working in civilian roles.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act (DPA) and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, Section 40(2) has been applied to the information to protect personal information as governed by the DPA and to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

The figures provided in this response have therefore been rounded to the nearest 10, where "-" denotes zero, "~" denotes a number less than or equal to five.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act I can advise you that the figures are based on Service personnel's stationed location and not their location of residence - where personnel work isn't necessarily where they live. Personnel deployed on operations to an area away from their stationed location are shown against their most recent stationed location. The Royal Navy/Royal Marines personnel on sea service are included against the local authority containing the home port of their ship.

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,

Defence People Secretariat FOI

REGULAR PERSONNEL STATIONED IN THE UK BY SERVICE AND COUNTRY FROM 01/04/2009 TO 01/04/2013

	01/04/2009			01/04/2010			01/04/2011			01/04/2012			01/04/2013		
	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF
Channel Islands	-	~	-	-	-	~	-	~	-	-	~	-	-	~	-
England	32990	75430	35250	33160	28740	73880	31190	77430	36370	32040	75760	35,060	30130	75500	33640
Isle of Man	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Ireland	30	3750	620	30	10	2430	90	3870	230	10	3910	90	10	3640	90
Scotland	4190	3280	4630	4370	4340	3820	3150	3340	4370	4580	3230	4,290	4,530	3250	3420
Wales	150	1660	920	160	140	1800	720	1730	1040	150	1700	970	140	1800	840

Section 16 table notes:

Regulars include Full-time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserved personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP) who are civilian.

REGULAR PERSONNEL STATIONED IN THE UK BY SERVICE AND COUNTRY FROM 01/04/2014 TO 01/04/2018

	01/04/2014			01/04/2015			01/04/2016			01/04/2017			01/04/2018		
	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF
Channel Islands	-	~	-	-	~	-	-	~	-	-	~	-	-	~	-
England	28230	67420	29990	27760	66920	29380	27380	69280	29060	27390	69460	28940	27170	67110	28170
Isle of Man	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Ireland	10	2250	80	10	2110	80	10	2040	70	10	1960	60	10	1900	60
Scotland	4210	3690	2700	4070	3350	2050	4200	4200	1910	4180	4110	1800	4120	4090	1700
Wales	130	1780	680	120	1610	660	130	1550	620	130	1510	560	120	1490	590

Section 16 table notes:

Regulars include Full-time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserved personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP) who are civilian.

RESERVE (FR20) PERSONNEL STATIONED IN THE UK BY SERVICE AND COUNTRY FROM 01/04/2013 TO 01/04/2018

	01/04/2013			01/04/2014			01/04/2015			01/04/2016			01/04/2017			01/04/2018		
	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF	RN	Army	RAF
1	-	50	-	-	40	-	-	40	-	-	40	-	-	40	-	-	50	-
2	2100	19050	1280	2310	17650	1430	2570	19040	1710	2900	21450	1930	2980	22300	2140	3030	21940	2320
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	~	-	-	~	-
4	100	1680	-	100	1650	20	100	1760	80	110	1850	130	110	1960	120	100	1950	110
5	290	2770	250	340	2700	250	390	2780	350	410	3210	360	360	3440	360	350	3770	440
6	90	1460	~	80	1380	10	80	1620	60	100	1860	100	100	1940	90	90	1800	90

Section 16 table notes:

Future Reserves 2020 includes volunteer reserves who are mobilised, HRR and volunteer reserve personnel serving on ADC or FTRS contracts. Sponsored Reserves who provide a more cost-effective solution than volunteer reserve are also included in the Army Reserve FR20. Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) and University Officer Cadets and Regular Reservists are excluded. Reserves location data has not been verified, so the quality of this data is unknown.

1. Channel Islands
2. England
3. Isle of Man
4. Northern Ireland
5. Scotland
6. Wales