



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI2018/12802

[REDACTED]

Date: 01/11/2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 09/10/2018 requesting the following information:

“statistics specifically on strength of the last century for all services including reserves”

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

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

We can provide all data requested regarding the Regular Forces over the past century. This is provided in the tables at the end of this letter. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 personnel. Totals have been rounded separately from their constituents, therefore in some cases the total may not exactly equal the sum of the constituents.

The earliest statistics that can be retrieved for the Reserve Forces is from 1977. There have been several changes to how Reserves data is recorded since then. The data was revised after the Reserve Forces Act 1996 which excluded the Ulster Defence Regiment prior to 1993 data and included Regular Reserves, Volunteer Reserves and Sponsored Reserves. Between 1977 and 1982 the Reserve Forces include Regular Reserves, Volunteer Reserves and the Auxiliary Forces. Between 1983 and 1993, Army Reserves include Home Service Force. Data from 2013 to 2018 has been sourced from the JPA database, previous data may not be comparable to this. The available data has been provided after the Regular Forces tables, which can be found on the following pages.

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/>.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering **Military Personnel** and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

<u>Year</u>	<u>RN/RM</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
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UK Regular Forces 1918-2018

<u>Year</u>	<u>RN/RM</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1918	450,000	3,838,000	295,000	4,583,000
1919	275,000	1,065,000	265,000	1,605,000
1920	136,000	435,000	27,000	598,000
1921	114,000	297,000	28,000	439,000
1922	121,000	217,000	29,000	367,000
1923	100,000	205,000	30,000	335,000
1924	101,000	207,000	31,000	339,000
1925	100,000	209,000	33,000	342,000
1926	101,000	206,000	35,000	342,000
1927	102,000	206,000	32,000	340,000
1928	102,000	198,000	31,000	331,000
1929	100,000	194,000	32,000	326,000
1930	97,000	188,000	32,000	317,000
1931	94,000	193,000	32,000	319,000
1932	92,000	193,000	32,000	317,000
1933	90,000	195,000	31,000	316,000
1934	91,000	196,000	31,000	318,000
1935	93,000	196,000	32,000	321,000
1936	98,000	197,000	45,000	340,000
1937	103,000	197,000	53,000	353,000
1938	113,000	199,000	73,000	385,000
1939	129,000	675,000	264,000	1,068,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>RN/RM</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
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<u>Year</u>	<u>RN/RM</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1940	282,000	1,152,000	379,000	1,813,000
1941	420,000	2,111,000	754,000	3,285,000
1942	535,000	2,438,000	907,000	3,880,000
1943	724,000	2,692,000	1,037,000	4,453,000
1944	864,000	2,742,000	1,085,000	4,691,000
1945	861,000	2,930,000	1,116,000	4,907,000
1946	371,000	1,129,000	439,000	1,939,000
1947	197,000	774,000	285,000	1,256,000
1948	142,000	450,000	238,000	830,000
1949	145,000	395,000	220,000	760,000
1941	420,000	2,111,000	754,000	3,285,000
1942	535,000	2,438,000	907,000	3,880,000
1943	724,000	2,692,000	1,037,000	4,453,000
1944	864,000	2,742,000	1,085,000	4,691,000
1945	861,000	2,930,000	1,116,000	4,907,000
1946	371,000	1,129,000	439,000	1,939,000
1947	197,000	774,000	285,000	1,256,000
1948	142,000	450,000	238,000	830,000
1949	145,000	395,000	220,000	760,000
1950	139,000	364,000	193,000	696,000
1951	138,000	434,000	251,000	823,000
1952	145,000	454,000	273,000	872,000

1953	146,000	444,000	278,000	868,000
1954	134,000	445,000	261,000	840,000
1955	128,000	423,000	253,000	804,000
1956	122,000	398,000	242,000	762,000
1957	116,000	367,000	221,000	704,000
1958	107,000	324,000	185,000	616,000
1959	102,000	294,000	171,000	567,000
1960	98,000	258,000	166,000	522,000
1961	95,000	200,000	162,000	457,000
1962	94,000	190,000	150,000	434,000
1963	96,000	177,000	145,000	418,000
1964	98,000	181,000	138,000	417,000
1965	99,000	184,000	132,000	415,000
1966	98,000	184,000	128,000	410,000
1967	97,000	185,000	124,000	406,000
1968	93,000	185,000	118,000	396,000
1969	90,000	179,000	114,000	383,000
1970	86,000	174,000	113,000	373,000
1971	83,000	173,000	112,000	368,000
1972	82,000	178,000	111,000	371,000
1973	81,000	180,000	106,000	367,000
1974	78,000	172,000	99,000	349,000
1975	76,000	167,000	95,000	338,000
1976	76,000	170,000	91,000	337,000
1977	76,000	167,000	87,000	330,000

1978	75,000	161,000	85,000	321,000
1979	73,000	156,000	86,000	315,000
1980	72,000	159,000	90,000	321,000
1981	74,000	166,000	94,000	334,000
1982	73,000	163,000	92,000	328,000
1983	72,000	159,000	90,000	321,000
1984	71,000	162,000	93,000	326,000
1985	70,000	162,000	93,000	325,000
1986	68,000	161,000	93,000	322,000
1987	67,000	160,000	94,000	321,000
1988	66,000	158,000	93,000	317,000
1989	65,000	156,000	91,000	312,000
1990	63,000	153,000	90,000	306,000
1991	62,000	148,000	88,000	298,000
1992	62,000	145,000	86,000	293,000
1993	59,000	135,000	81,000	275,000
1994	56,000	123,000	76,000	255,000
1995	51,000	112,000	71,000	234,000
1996	48,000	109,000	65,000	222,000
1997	45,000	109,000	57,000	211,000
1998	45,000	110,000	56,000	211,000
1999	44,000	110,000	55,000	209,000
2000	43,000	110,000	55,000	208,000
2001	42,000	110,000	54,000	206,000
2002	42,000	110,000	53,000	205,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>RN/RM</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
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2003	42,000	112,000	53,000	207,000
2004	41,000	113,000	53,000	207,000
2005	40,000	109,000	52,000	201,000
2006	39,000	108,000	49,000	196,000
2007	39,000	106,000	45,000	191,000
2008	39,000	105,000	43,000	187,000
2009	38,000	107,000	44,000	189,000
2010	39,000	109,000	44,000	192,000
2011	38,000	106,000	42,000	186,000
2012	36,000	104,000	40,000	180,000
2013	34,000	100,000	37,000	171,000
2014	33,000	91,000	35,000	160,000
2015	33,000	87,000	34,000	154,000
2016	33,000	85,000	33,000	151,000
2017	33,000	84,000	33,000	149,000
2018	32,000	81,000	33,000	147,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>RN/RM</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
2000	28,000	221,000	44,000	293,000

UK Reserve Forces

<u>Year</u>	<u>RN/RM</u>	<u>Army¹</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1977	37,000	180,000	34,000	250,000
1978	35,000	187,000	31,000	253,000
1979	37,000	194,000	29,000	260,000
1980	35,000	194,000	28,000	267,000
1981	35,000	214,000	27,000	280,000
1982	33,000	219,000	30,000	283,000
1983	33,000	218,000	30,000	281,000
1984	32,000	222,000	30,000	284,000
1985	32,000	218,000	31,000	294,000
1986	33,000	241,000	33,000	307,000
1987	34,000	246,000	34,000	318,000
1988	34,000	252,000	37,000	323,000
1989	35,000	257,000	39,000	331,000
1990	35,000	265,000	42,000	343,000
1991	36,000	270,000	44,000	350,000
1992	33,000	269,000	47,000	349,000
1993	28,000	259,000	48,000	338,000
1994	28,000	258,000	48,000	331,000
1995	27,000	255,000	47,000	329,000
1996	27,000	253,000	46,000	327,000
1997	28,000	248,000	47,000	322,000
1998	29,000	243,000	46,000	317,000
1999	29,000	233,000	44,000	305,000

2001	28,000	211,000	43,000	282,000
2002	28,000	202,000	42,000	271,000
2003	27,000	191,000	39,000	257,000
2004	27,000	180,000	38,000	244,000
2005	26,000	172,000	36,000	234,000
2006	-	166,000	36,000	-
2007	-	159,000	35,000	-
2008	22,000	*35,000	*1,000	-
2009	*3,000	*35,000	*1,000	-
2010	*3,000	*33,000	*2,000	-
2011	*3,000	*31,000	*1,000	-
2012	*3,000	63,000	9,000	-
2013	13,000	62,000	10,000	86,000
2014	13,000	60,000	10,000	84,000
2015	14,000	61,000	10,000	85,000
2016	14,000	63,000	11,000	88,000
2017	13,000	64,000	11,000	88,000
2018	12,000	63,000	12,000	87,000

1. Recruitment of women to HSF started in financial year 1990/1991
 * Volunteer Reserve data only. Tri-Service Regular Reserve data were not migrated across from legacy systems onto the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system, and any data subsequent to its introduction have been sourced from the single Services where available concerns over the quality of the source data has prohibited publication of the 2009 and 2010.