



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 18th October 2018 requesting the following information:

“Under the FOI Act I would like details of the declared religions of service personnel, broken down by service, for the last three years.

I would like a breakdown of religions that are declared under the category entitled "All other religions": Baha'i, Druid, Kirati, Pagan, Rastafarian, Spiritualist, Zoroastrian and Wicca.”

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 all information in scope of your request is held.

The information you requested is contained in the accompanying spreadsheet; figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and suppressed under 5.

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)

Strength of UK Regulars by Religion

| | 1 Apr 2016 | 1 Apr 2017 | 1 Apr 2018 |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| All Services | | | |
| Other Religions ¹ | 790 | 870 | 960 |
| of which | | | |
| Baha'i | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Druid | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Jainist | - | ~ | ~ |
| Kirati | 80 | 100 | 120 |
| Pagan | 120 | 140 | 150 |
| Rastafarian | 150 | 160 | 210 |
| Spiritualist | 40 | 40 | 30 |
| Wicca | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Zoroastrian (Parsee) | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Other Religions | 380 | 390 | 400 |
| RN/RM | | | |
| Other Religions ¹ | 180 | 190 | 200 |
| of which | | | |
| Baha'i | - | - | - |
| Druid | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Jainist | - | - | - |
| Kirati | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Pagan | 20 | 20 | 30 |
| Rastafarian | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Spiritualist | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Wicca | 10 | ~ | ~ |
| Zoroastrian (Parsee) | - | - | - |
| Other Religions | 100 | 110 | 110 |
| Army | | | |
| Other Religions ¹ | 460 | 500 | 570 |
| of which | | | |
| Baha'i | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Druid | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Jainist | - | - | - |
| Kirati | 80 | 100 | 120 |
| Pagan | 80 | 90 | 90 |
| Rastafarian | 110 | 120 | 160 |
| Spiritualist | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Wicca | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Zoroastrian (Parsee) | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Other Religions | 160 | 150 | 160 |
| Royal Air Force | | | |
| Other Religions ¹ | 160 | 170 | 190 |
| of which | | | |
| Baha'i | - | - | - |
| Druid | ~ | ~ | 10 |
| Jainist | - | ~ | ~ |
| Kirati | - | - | ~ |
| Pagan | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Rastafarian | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Spiritualist | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Wicca | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Zoroastrian (Parsee) | - | - | - |
| Other Religions | 110 | 120 | 130 |

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri Service)

- Other Religions includes Druid, Pagan, Rastafarian, Spiritualist, Zoroastrian (Parsee), Wicca and Baha'i among others. Percentages are calculated from unrounded data and are based on those with known religion only. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and suppressed below 5 to prevent disclosure
~ Less than 5