



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received on 20 December 2018 requesting the following information:

“I have found an MoD/ONS survey suggesting 136,000 veterans living in Greater London in 2016 but are you aware of statistics that break down this number by borough?”

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

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence does not hold this information.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to note:

The MOD has published top-level estimates of veterans residing in Great Britain, by region and county within the ‘Annual Population Survey: UK Armed Forces Veterans residing in Great Britain’ Official Statistics¹. The estimates were compiled using the Annual Population Survey (APS) conducted by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Of all respondents to the 2016 survey who were residing in Great Britain and aged 16 and over, 13,000 were identified as veterans. This sample size was considered appropriate to estimate the numbers of veterans in each region and county. However, the ONS advised that the sample size was too small to produce robust estimates of veterans at lower level geographies.

The MOD has published a range of statistics on specific veteran cohorts that may be of assistance:

1. All veterans in receipt of compensation and/or an occupational pension:

This Official Statistic, last published on 16 August 2018, presents summary statistics on the location of UK Armed Forces pension and compensation recipients by country, region, county, local authority, local health organisation, and postcode district, as at 31 March 2018. Overall totals of all pension and compensation recipients are presented, including separate totals for veterans only. Please note: This statistical bulletin does not contain those who are in receipt of a pension under the AFPS15 scheme. Information relating to your request can be found in Table 3 of the excel tables. These statistics are published on the Gov.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>

¹ Annual Population Survey: UK Armed Forces Veterans residing in Great Britain 2016:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-population-survey-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-great-britain-2016>

2. Working age veterans residing in England and Wales, as at 2011:

On 27 September 2018, the MOD published 'Census 2011: Working age UK Armed Forces Veterans residing in England and Wales' Official Statistics. The MOD collaborated with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and set up a data linkage study to identify UK Armed Forces veterans in the 2011 Census. Circa. 2.1 million electronic Service Leavers records were matched with the 2011 England and Wales Census data resulting in three quarters of a million matched records for veterans aged under 65. Note that these statistics exclude veterans aged 65 and over due to the lack of electronic data on older veterans. These statistics are published on the Gov.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/census-2011-working-age-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-england-and-wales-index>

In December 2018 the Government published a White Paper² recommending the inclusion of a new question in the 2021 England and Wales Census to identify those people, aged 16 years and over, who have ever served in the UK Armed Forces as regulars and reserves. This should provide estimates of the veteran community at low level geographical locations.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://ico.org.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health

² Help Shape Our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-2021-census-of-population-and-housing-in-england-and-wales>