



Ministry  
of Defence

**Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)  
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Reference: **FOI 2018/16200**

[REDACTED]

Date: **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Defence on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018 requesting the following information:

1. The number of personnel recruited from Commonwealth nations who left the UK Armed Forces in the following years:
  - 2016
  - 2017
  - 2018

If possible, for each year please provide the numbers split by branch of the UK Armed Forces (Army, Royal Navy, RAF)

2. The final rank of personnel recruited from Commonwealth nations who left the UK Armed Forces in the following years:
  - 2016
  - 2017
  - 2018

If possible, for each year please provide the numbers of personnel leaving at each rank split by branch of the UK Armed Forces (Army, Royal Navy, RAF)

3. The average number of immediate dependants residing in the UK that personnel recruited from Commonwealth nations have at the point of discharge from the UK Armed Forces for 2016/2017/2018.
4. The average number of immediate dependants that personnel recruited from Commonwealth nations have at point of recruitment into the UK Armed Forces for personnel recruited in 2016/2017/2018.

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.

The data for part one and two can be found in the following pages below. Regarding part three and four, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not hold information on dependents of Service Personnel residing in the UK. MOD does not hold information on dependents.

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](mailto: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](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

**1. Number of Regular personnel recruited from Irish and Commonwealth countries who left the Armed Forces<sup>4</sup> (Financial Year 15/16 -17/18)**

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<b>Royal Navy/Royal Marines<sup>1</sup></b>	70	60	60
<b>Army<sup>2</sup></b>	480	450	440
<b>Royal Air Force<sup>3</sup></b>	10	10	~

**2. Final rank of Regular personnel recruited from Irish and Commonwealth countries who left the Armed Forces<sup>4,5</sup> (Financial Year 15/16 -17-18)**

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<b>Royal Navy/Royal Marines<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Officer</b>	~	<b>10</b>	~
OF4	-	~	-
OF3	~	~	~
OF2	-	~	~
OF1	-	~	-
<b>Other Ranks</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
OR7	~	~	-
OR6	~	~	~
OR4	10	10	10
OR3	~	~	~
OR2	50	40	40
<b>Army<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>480</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>Officer</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
OF5	-	~	-
OF4	-	~	~
OF3	~	~	~
OF2	10	~	~
<b>Other Ranks</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>430</b>
OR8	~	-	~
OR7	~	~	~
OR6	10	10	20
OR4	80	70	70
OR3	130	100	100
OR2	240	260	240
<b>Royal Air Force<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	~
<b>Officer</b>	~	~	-
OF4	~	-	-
OF2	-	~	-
<b>Other Ranks</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	~
OR6	~	-	~
OR4	~	~	~
OR2	10	10	~

**Notes:** 1. Nationality is held from 1 September 2006. Personnel who joined after this date are identified by their nationality on intake. Where nationality on intake is not held, personnel have been included if their nationality upon leaving the Armed Forces was Irish or Commonwealth or there is a previous recorded change of nationality from Irish or Commonwealth.

2. These statistics include people with non-UK Commonwealth nationalities who were recruited into the Regular Army from 1993 onwards.

The figures may include some people who were already resident in the UK when they joined the Army.

A large number of Commonwealth citizens were recruited into the Army during the early 2000s.

3. Nationality is held from April 2006.

4. The Irish and Commonwealth grouping includes all personnel with a nationality, as recorded on JPA, that is either i) Irish or ii) reported in the British Nationality Act 1981, SCHEDULE 3 (Countries Whose Citizens are Commonwealth Citizens), further information of which is available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/61/schedule/3>. On the 12th November 2015, under the British Nationality (The Gambia) Order 2015, the Gambia was omitted from the Commonwealth. Figures relating to personnel with a nationality of Gambian are still included in the Irish and Commonwealth grouping.

UK Regulars are Full-time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding FTRS personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, MPGS, LEP and NRPS.

Personnel transferring services are not included in these statistics

Those who have become British Citizens after joining the Armed Forces are included in these statistics

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in line with disclosure control policy. Figures of 5 and below are represented by '~'.

Figures ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid bias, 0 is represented by '-'.

Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts

5. Personnel have been identified using Paid Rank as recorded on the Joint Personnel Administrative system