



Ministry of Defence

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FOI2019/06755

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 9 June in which you requested the following information:

Can you please clarify how many staff (FTE) were employed in 2018 to answer public and ministerial correspondence.

Also how many such correspondence was received (i.e. in addition to the FOI request how many parliamentary questions, media questions and public queries were received in 2018?

You then refined the second part of your request to be for:

parliamentary questions, ministerial and treat official correspondence,

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held and has been provided below.

The table below shows calendar year 2018 Army Command correspondence by type:

Type	Number
Parliamentary Questions (PQ)	284
Ministerial Correspondence (MC)	306
Treat Officials (TO)	377

Please note that these figures are a single service estimate and is not an official statistic produced by Defence Statistics.

'FTE' has been interpreted as 'Full Time Equivalent'. The number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff who were employed to answer PQs, MCs and TOs by the Army Command in 2018 is not held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that all Army Command staff who deal with these types of correspondence as part of their role also work on other Parliamentary business. The amount of time taken to deal specifically with these types of correspondence is not held and therefore FTE cannot be calculated.

A single Service estimate of the overall number of PQs, MCs and TOs dealt with by the Ministry of Defence in 2018 has been provided in the table below to provide context:

Type	Number
PQ	2,347
MC	2,573
TO	2,437

In addition, the quantity of Parliamentary Questions answered by all Government Departments is published by the Parliamentary Procedure Committee at the end of each Parliamentary session. Figures were last published on 15 December 2017 and can be found at this link:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmproced/661/661.pdf>

More recent information can be found by searching the Parliament database, Written Questions and Answers, which can be found at this link:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/>

The quantity of Ministerial Correspondence answered by all Government Departments in each calendar year is usually published by the Cabinet Office.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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,

Army secretariat