



Ministry of Defence

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Reference: 09145

[Redacted]

Date: 13/08/2019

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Defence on 1 August 2019 requesting the following information:

“...how many 16 to 18 years olds signed up to the armed forces in each of the last three years, broken down by month?”

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 table below contains the number of 16 to 18 years old who have joined the Regular Armed Forces and the Future Reserve Programme (FR20) in the previous three financial year broken down by the respective months:

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| April | 260 | 170 | 170 |
| May | 240 | 230 | 200 |
| June | 200 | 170 | 170 |
| July | 270 | 260 | 230 |
| August | 200 | 150 | 110 |
| September | 1,220 | 620 | 1,120 |
| October | 340 | 1,020 | 290 |
| November | 340 | 290 | 250 |
| December | 60 | 50 | 80 |
| January | 290 | 290 | 350 |
| February | 250 | 180 | 290 |
| March | 760 | 630 | 1,020 |
| FY Total | 4,420 | 4,060 | 4,290 |

Source: Defence Statistics Tri

Notes:

- The figures are for Trained and Untrained Regular Forces and FR20 only.
- UK Regulars are full-time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, excluding FTRS personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guarding Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), and Non-Regular Permanent Service (NRPS).
- Future Reserves 2020 includes volunteer reserves who are mobilised, HRR and volunteer reserve personnel serving on ADC or FTRS contracts. Sponsored Reserves who provide a more cost-effective solution than volunteer reserve are also included in the Army Reserve FR20. Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) and University Officer Cadets and Regular Reservists are excluded.
- Ages are calculated as the difference between an individual's Date of Birth, and the date of their intake ('Flow Date') as recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. Age is as at last birthday before intake date.
- Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, though numbers ending in a "5", have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

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.gov.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.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)