



Ministry  
of Defence

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29 April 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 30 March in which you asked for the following information:

*data on Trained Requirement against Trained Strength (Army):...data on trained for at least every five years going back as far as possible to [from 1999] to 1950.*

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 holds this information. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

Information on the strength and workforce requirement of the Army before 1986 is not held, however information between 1986 and 2000 is available. The table below has been provided by Defence Statistics (Army) and is subject to the following caveats:

1. The figures are for Trained Strength only, and therefore exclude any Untrained Strengths or Officer Designates.
2. Total Trained Strength figures include Trained Strength from Regulars, FTRS and Gurkhas.
3. In 2006 the Reserve Forces Act was introduced. This enabled the wider use of Reservists in support of Regular personnel.
4. The statistics have been extracted from the 'Historic Compendium of Army Manpower Statistics' produced in January 2010 by Defence Statistics (Army) formerly known as DASA (Army). This was a consistent collation of information that was reported to defence at this time.
5. The requirement in some years may have been a planning liability.
6. The strength varies over this time period as later years include populations such as the Gurkhas and FTRS. The requirement represented the defined trained strength population at the time.
7. Trained strength is comparable to the current term trade trained strength.
8. Requirement as shown in this document is provided by the Army Workforce Plans Team and replaces the previously used term "Liability."

Table: Whole Army Strength (Trained Personnel) and Requirement as at 1st April 1986 - 1st March 2007

|           | <b>Total Strength v Requirement</b> |                    |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
|           | <b>Total Trained Strength</b>       | <b>Requirement</b> |
| 01-Mar-07 | <b>99,280</b>                       | 101,800            |
| 01-Apr-06 | <b>100,620</b>                      | 101,800            |
| 01-Apr-05 | <b>102,440</b>                      | 104,170            |
| 01-Apr-04 | <b>103,560</b>                      | 106,730            |
| 01-Apr-03 | <b>102,000</b>                      | 106,980            |
| 01-Apr-02 | <b>100,410</b>                      | 106,970            |
| 01-Apr-01 | <b>100,420</b>                      | 106,970            |
| 01-Apr-00 | <b>100,310</b>                      | 106,400            |
| 01-Apr-99 | <b>99,820</b>                       | 105,270            |
| 01-Apr-98 | <b>100,880</b>                      | 105,770            |
| 01-Apr-97 | <b>101,350</b>                      | 103,350            |
| 01-Apr-96 | <b>99,530</b>                       | 104,020            |
| 01-Apr-95 | <b>104,530</b>                      | 104,310            |
| 01-Apr-94 | <b>116,110</b>                      | 114,980            |
| 01-Apr-93 | <b>128,480</b>                      | 127,740            |
| 01-Apr-92 | <b>133,450</b>                      | 141,190            |
| 01-Apr-91 | <b>136,620</b>                      | 142,540            |
| 01-Apr-90 | <b>137,430</b>                      | 142,550            |
| 01-Apr-89 | <b>139,480</b>                      | 142,430            |
| 01-Apr-88 | <b>142,650</b>                      | 142,620            |
| 01-Apr-87 | <b>145,240</b>                      | 143,710            |
| 01-Apr-86 | <b>145,420</b>                      | 144,820            |

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that, where it has survived, information before 1986 will now be held at the National Archives. Further guidance on what might be available and where was provided to you in the acknowledgement letter sent to you on 6 April.

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](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/>.

Yours sincerely,



Army Secretariat