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Reference: 2019/13195

[Redacted]

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Defence on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 requesting the following information:

- “1. How many British born Muslims applied for the Armed services in the years 2016, 2017 and 2018? This includes the British Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and Royal Marines?”**
- 2. How many British born Muslims that applied made it through their training successful and served in the British Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and Royal Marines between 2016-2018?**
- 3. How many British born Muslims who joined armed services completed minimum length of service before exiting the armed services between 2016-2018?**
- 4. How many formal complaints were made by British born Muslim serving personnel between 2016-2018?”**

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.

As to part 1 of your request the data is held and is contained in Table 1.

**Table 1. UK Regular<sup>1</sup> Armed Forces British Born<sup>2</sup> Muslims<sup>3</sup> applications between 2016-2018**

Service	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
Royal Navy	20	20	100	140
Royal Marines	~	20	20	40
Army <sup>4</sup>	180	250	1 150	1 570
RAF <sup>5</sup>	20	40	230	280
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>1 500</b>	<b>2 030</b>

**Notes:**

Figures in this table have been rounded to the nearest 10, though numbers ending in a “5” have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent the systematic bias caused by always rounding numbers upwards.

Figures less than 5 have been denoted with ~ and “0” has been denoted with -

1. 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).
2. British Born refers to personnel with country of birth as United Kingdom from the application data.
3. The personnel counts are calculated from those that have declared their religion as Muslim which is not a mandatory field. Personnel with an Unknown religion are excluded from this calculation.
4. Army figures are derived from nationality and not country of birth as this information is not captured in Army's application process. The nationalities included were British, English, Irish, Northern Irish, Scottish or Welsh
5. RAF only includes applications data from online applications and not manually processed applications. RAF totals include the number of individual candidates whom applied per year. A candidate can apply more than once per year but are only counted once.

As to part 2 of your request the data is held and is contained in Table 2.

**Table 2. UK Regular<sup>1</sup> Armed Forces British Born<sup>2</sup> Muslims<sup>3</sup> who became Trained<sup>4</sup> between 2016-2018**

Service	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
Royal Navy	~	~	~	10
Royal Marines	-	-	-	-
Army	~	10	10	20
RAF	~	~	~	~
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>

**Notes:**

Figures in this table have been rounded to the nearest 10, though numbers ending in a “5” have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent the systematic bias caused by always rounding numbers upwards.

Figures less than 5 have been denoted with ~ and “0” has been denoted with -

1. 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).
2. British Born refers to personnel with country of birth as United Kingdom in the Joint Personnel Administration.
3. The personnel counts are calculated from those that have a recorded religion of Muslim. Personnel with an Unknown religion are excluded from this calculation. In 2016, 2017, 2018, 99.9 per cent of UK Regular Personnel had a known religion on Joint Personnel Administration (JPA).
4. Trained in this report are those that have completed training for Naval Service and RAF. Trained refers to Full-Time Trade Trained Strength (FTTTS) to Army only and includes Full-time personnel who have passed Phase 2 training.
5. Of those who declared their religion as Muslims and became Trained between 2016-2018, less than 0.1 per cent did not have a recorded country of birth.

As to part 3 of your request the data is held and is contained in Table 3.

**Table 3. UK Regular<sup>1</sup> Armed Forces British Born<sup>2</sup> Muslims<sup>3</sup> who exited after the minimum length of service<sup>4</sup> between 2016-2018**

<b>Service</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>Royal Navy</b>	-	~	~	~
<b>Royal Marines</b>	-	-	~	~
<b>Army</b>	~	10	10	20
<b>RAF</b>	~	-	~	~
<b>Grand Total</b>	10	10	20	30

**Notes:**

Figures in this table have been rounded to the nearest 10, though numbers ending in a "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent the systematic bias caused by always rounding numbers upwards.

Figures less than 5 have been denoted with ~ and "0" has been denoted with -

1. 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).

2. British Born refers to personnel with country of birth as United Kingdom in the Joint Personnel Administration.

3. The personnel counts are calculated from those that have a recorded religion of Muslim. Personnel with an Unknown religion are excluded from this calculation. In 2016, 2017, 2018, 99.9 per cent of UK Regular Personnel had a known religion on Joint Personnel Administration (JPA).

4. Minimum length of service was based on a 4-year time point from the date of entry for Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army, RAF. The minimum length of service for entrants in the Army was 4 years after turning 18 years of age.

As to part 4 of your request; no data is held on the country of birth and religion of Armed Forces personnel who have made service complaints and as such the requested data is not held.

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

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)