



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2020/07299**

Date: **24th July 2020**

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Defence on 28 June 2020 requesting the following information:

Under the FOI Act, could you please supply details of the number of BAME officers at the rank of Colonel, Brigadier, Major General, Lieutenant General and General are currently serving in the Army. I would also like details of BAME officers of equivalent ranks serving in the Royal Navy and RAF. I would also like the numbers of BAME to be split by sex.

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 information in scope of your request is held.

However, this information is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore being withheld. Section 40(2) of the FOIA states that the personal data of a third party is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA if to do so would contravene any of the data protection principles.

Personnel numbers by Rank and Ethnicity breakdowns by Service are published in Table 2a within the Biannual Diversity Statistics Publication, the latest version can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2020>

Further ethnicity breakdowns can also be found in Table 2 for UK Regular by Ethnicity and Rank, Table 2a for UK Regular by Ethnicity and NATO Rank and Table 5 for UK Regular by Ethnicity and Nationality. In line with statistical disclosure control policy, the suppression methodology has been applied to ensure individuals are not inadvertently identified dependent on the risk of disclosure.

The MOD Disclosure Control and Rounding policy is published on GOV.UK at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-statistics-policies>

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). 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 Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)