



Ministry  
of Defence

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Reference: FOI2020/07739

03 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received on 7 July 2020 requesting the following information:

"I am therefore formally requesting a FOI to answer the following

- 1) Numbers of ESLs per year across all branches since 2015
- 2) Overall number of ESLs undertaking the Future Horizons Programme since the new provision was rolled out in Oct 2015"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

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

**Table 1** presents a summary of numbers of early service leavers from UK Regular armed forces who left the armed forces between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2020 and of those, the numbers which used a billable service within the Future Horizons Programme.

**Table 1: UK Armed Forces Early Service Leavers<sup>1,2</sup>, by financial year, numbers<sup>3</sup>**

1 April 2015 - 31 March 2020

| Financial Year <sup>4</sup>                      | All Years          | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20         |
|--|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| All Early Service Leavers                        | 20,050             | 4,040   | 3,960   | 3,890   | 3,620   | 4,540           |
| Of which: used Future Horizons (FH) <sup>5</sup> | 6,863 <sup>6</sup> | 839     | 2,015   | 2,036   | 1,973   | NA <sup>6</sup> |

Data sources: Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA) and Right Management

1. Early service leavers have been defined as personnel with less than 4 years' service
2. Figures includes UK Regular and Gurkha personnel only
3. In line with the Quarterly Service Personnel National Statistic, figures on number of early service leavers 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.
4. Financial year has been calculated from 1 April to 31 March
5. Only includes service leavers who accessed a billable CTP service up to six months following exit from the UK Regular armed forces.
6. Data for the 2019/20 financial year is not currently available.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) you may wish to note the following:

#### Outflow Data

The MOD administrative database for Service personnel, the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System, was used to identify service personnel who left the UK Armed Forces between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2020. Please note this response includes Regular and Gurkha personnel.

Early service leavers have been defined as personnel with less than 4 years' service.

Length of Service for personnel outflowing was obtained by calculating the difference between their JPA 'entry date' and 'outflow date'. In the case of personnel who have outflowed and subsequently re-joined the Armed Forces, the entry date is intended to show their latest intake date in order to correctly reflect their current length of service however, this field is not always updated, and the numbers should be treated as a minimum.

#### Career Transition Partnership

The Career Transition Partnership (CTP) annual statistical bulletin provides summary statistics on employment outcomes, six months after leaving Service, for UK regular and Gurkha Service personnel who left the UK Armed Forces and accessed billable employment support provided by the CTP. The latest available statistical bulletin (from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019) was published on 27 February 2020:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/career-transition-partnership-ex-service-personnel-employment-outcomes-statistics-index>

CTP figures for the financial year 2019/20 are not available as they have not yet been compiled. These will be available once the next CTP statistics are published in January 2021.

The CTP is an agreement between a contractor (Right Management, Limited since 1998) and the MOD, and exists to support Service leavers in their transition from military to civilian life/employment through a range of career and employment support services including workshops, one-to-one guidance and job finding support.

All Service personnel leaving the UK Armed Forces are eligible for CTP resettlement support. Personnel who died were excluded from the eligibility criteria for the purpose of this response, although in practice, their next of kin are eligible for resettlement support. CTP support is available to eligible personnel two years before leaving the UK Armed Forces, through to two years after. The level of CTP support offered is dependent on a combination of the length of time served in the UK Armed Forces and the reason for exit.

The Future Horizons (FH) programme provides employment support to Service Leavers who had served less than four years or who had left for disciplinary reasons irrespective of the number of years served. Please note, early service leavers who medically discharged would have been entitled to use the other two programmes and therefore have not been included in Table 1. Table 2 presents the number of Early Service Leavers who accessed CTP support under the Employment Support Programme and Core Resettlement Programme between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2020.

**Table 2: UK Armed Forces Early Service Leavers<sup>1,2</sup>, by financial year and CTP Programme, numbers**

1 April 2015 - 31 March 2020

| Financial Year <sup>3</sup>                     | All Years          | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 <sup>5</sup> |
|---|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|
| Employment Support Programme (ESP) <sup>4</sup> | 603 <sup>5</sup>   | 491     | 34      | 40      | 38      | NA                   |
| Core Resettlement Programme (CRP) <sup>4</sup>  | 2,159 <sup>5</sup> | 686     | 610     | 513     | 350     | NA                   |
| Total <sup>4</sup>                              | 2,762 <sup>5</sup> | 1,177   | 644     | 553     | 388     | NA                   |

Data sources: Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA) and Right Management

1. Early service leavers have been defined as personnel with less than 4 years' service
2. Figures includes UK Regular and Gurkha personnel only
3. Financial year has been calculated from 1 April to 31 March
4. Only includes service leavers who accessed a billable CTP service up to six months following exit from the UK Regular armed forces.
5. Data for the 2019/20 financial year is not currently available.

CTP employment outcomes are only sought from those who used billable CTP services. Service Leavers who accessed only non-billable services such as career fairs were excluded. This response also excludes Service Leavers who did not use a billable service within six months of leaving but who may have gone on to use a billable CTP service up to two years post-discharge.

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/>.

Yours sincerely

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