

Dstl Secretariat

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Dstl is part of the
Ministry of Defence

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Our ref: FOI 2020/06472
Your ref:

Date: 2 July 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 5 June 2020 requesting the following information:

"Can you please provide me with any information about DSTL's deployment of civilians to operational theatres? For example:

- Does DSTL have a support to operations team? If so, what is the size of this team and how does it operate? Is it separate to the Stabilisation Unit's Deployable Civilian Expert roster?
- How many DSTL employees have been deployed on operations each year from 2014 to present"?

We are 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 scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below.

Dstl has teams that coordinate its support to operations, including preparing staff for and supporting them on deployment and responding to requests for support through reachback into Dstl. Deployed staff are drawn from across Dstl according to the nature of the support required.

The team is separate to the Stabilisation Unit's Deployable Civilian Expert roster; Dstl support to operations is both governed and funded separately.

Across all operational theatres currently supported, the following numbers of staff have been deployed for tours of duty on operations overseas:

Table provides number of staff deployed in each financial year from 2014 to 2019.

Financial year 2014-15	41 staff deployed each for part of the year
Financial year 2015-16	0 staff deployed each for part of the year
Financial year 2016-17	2 staff deployed each for part of the year

Financial year 2017-18	8 staff deployed each for part of the year
Financial year 2018-19	4 staff deployed each for part of the year
Financial year 2019-20	2 staff deployed each for part of the year

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) our response covers only Dstl civilian support to operations.

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). 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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