



Ministry  
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 requesting the following information:

**"I am conducting research into religious belief in the Armed Forces and would like to obtain information you hold. Over a year ago you kindly sent me some excellent and well presented information in response to my FOI request (FOI 20190933). It was based on data up to 1 Apr 19. I am keen to understand the changing trend of belief and would like to see the updated figures. I would be most grateful therefore if you would please provide me with updated figures for Apr 20 (or thereabouts). To be compatible with the previous figures the data should be drawn from the "Religion" and "Religion Requirements" as held on JPA, taken as a snapshot on any recent day:**

- Figures for the 3 Services should be separated out please.
- Figures should also be divided into age groups (20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54).
- The data should show how many personnel are in each category under the data field "Religion".
- *Taking those who select "No Religion", the data should show the breakdown of the choices personnel subsequently made under the data field "Religion Requirements".*
- The data should allow a calculation to be made of the response rate to these questions i.e. the unknown/blanks are also important in both fields.
- The data should be supplied in absolute figures not as percentages. I can work these out from the figures.
- In order to anonymise the data, it should be rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in 5 may be rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.
- Please provide the data on a spreadsheet."

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 all information in scope of your request is held.

The data you have requested is contained in the attached spreadsheet

Please note the figures presented represent only the UK Regular Forces population (a full definition of which is contained within the spreadsheet)

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 [Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)