



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services
Secretariat Team
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Ref: FOI2021/01363

E-mail: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

01 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 4 February 2021 requesting the following information:

"I'm writing a piece about the BAME element of the armed forces community.

Please could I have the following stats?

Numbers of:

BAME personnel currently serving in the armed forces

BAME Veterans (ie left the armed services)

BAME Veterans with a either a War Disablement Pensions or an AFCS payment"

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested in relation to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) personnel currently serving in the Armed Forces falls entirely within the scope of an absolute exemption under Section 21 of the FOIA as it is reasonably accessible by other means. As Section 21 is an absolute exemption, there is no requirement to consider the public interest in making the decision to withhold the information. However, the link to this information can be found below under Section 16.

The number of BAME Veterans who have made a claim under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and War Pensions Scheme is not held as ethnicity is not required and has no relevance when making a claim under either scheme.

The number of BAME Veterans is not held. The Ministry of Defence does not hold records in relation to the total number of Veterans including those who are BAME.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Guidance) you may be interested to know that the number of BAME personnel currently serving in the Armed Forces can be found in the UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity statistics found on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-index>

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,

Defence Business Services Secretariat