



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI2021/11006

[REDACTED]

Date: **25/10/2021**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 27/09/2021 requesting the following information:

"In a previous FoI request [Ref: FOI2018/03656] you gave details on the number of people in each of the armed services who identified as Pagans, and those Pagans who identified as Wiccans. Could you provide me with up-to-date figures for these two categories? Could you also state how many people in each of the armed services identified in any religious group where the total number in the armed services for that religion was less than 100?"

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.

Please find attached a table that includes a breakdown of UK Regulars¹ by Religion and Religious Requirement². As requested this table includes information on Pagan, Wicca and all Religious Requirements with total personnel of less than 100 people. For comparison this table also includes grand totals for each Religion that includes religious groups with less than 100 personnel.

Please note that in our system Wicca is **not** a subset of Pagan, they are two separate categories.

Notes/Caveats:

1. UK Regulars comprise Full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), High Readiness Reserve (HRR) and Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) personnel. Unless otherwise stated, includes trained and untrained personnel.
2. Religion and Religious Requirement as reported on the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA). Unknown includes those with an unrecorded religion, and those who chose not to declare.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in line with disclosure control policy. Figures ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid bias, 5 or fewer is represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. In line with JSP200 Statistics Disclosure Guidance, numbers fewer than five have been suppressed to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities; secondary suppression has been applied so numbers cannot be derived. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

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.

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,

Analysis (Tri-Service)

Table 1: UK Regulars¹ by Religion² with Religious requirements² of less than 100 people and Pagan and Wicca highlighted

Religion	Religious requirement	Royal Navy/Royal Marines	Army	Royal Air Force	Grand Total
Christian		20030	52460	20320	92800
of which:	Congregational	~	10	10	20
	Eastern Orthodox	~	~	~	10
	Free Church of Scotland	10	10	~	30
	Greek Orthodox	10	10	~	20
	Lutheran	~	10	~	20
	Moravian	-	~	~	~
	Orthodox	10	60	10	90
	Plymouth Brethren	~	~	~	~
	Presbyterian Church of Wales	-	10	~	10
	Quaker (Society of Friends)	~	~	~	10
	Russian Orthodox	~	~	-	~
	Salvation Army	10	60	10	80
	Scottish Episcopal Church	10	20	10	40
	United Free Church of Scotland	~	~	~	~
	United Reformed Church	10	30	30	80
Christian Tradition		70	110	50	230
of which:	Christian Scientist	10	10	10	30
	Christian Tradition	20	20	20	70
	Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon)	20	40	10	70
	Jehovah's Witness	-	~	~	~
	Other Christian Tradition	20	40	10	60
	Unitarian	~	~	~	10
Other Religions		310	1160	240	1710
of which:	Baha'i	-	-	~	~
	Druid	~	10	10	20
	Jainist	-	-	~	~
	Pagan	40	230	40	310
	Spiritualist	10	20	10	40

	Wicca	~	10	~	20
	Zoroastrian (Parsee)	-	~	~	~
No Religion		13240	25300	12260	50790
of which:	Secularist	~	10	10	20

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