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Reference: FOI2021/06691

Date: 10/08/2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 24 June 2021 requesting the following information:

"The number of direct entry Female officers who left the military broken down by service and year from 2012 to 2021. I would also like a separate breakdown by those who left through NTT, left through medical discharge or retired"

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 some information in scope of your request is held.

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. Figures 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. For example; a value of '25' would be rounded down to '20' and a value of '15' would be rounded up to '20'. Additionally, totals and sub-totals are rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

## Trained UK Regular Female Officer Outflow by Service, Exit Reason and Financial Year, 1 April 2012 - 31 March 2021

RN/RM	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Voluntary Outflow	20	20	20	20	20	20	10	20	10
Time Expiry	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	~
Medical Discharge	~	~	10	~	~	~	10	~	10
Other Wastage	20	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>

Source: Analysis (Navy), FMed 23, DMICP, JPA

<b>Army</b>									
Voluntary Outflow	70	70	60	70	60	60	60	70	50
Time Expiry	30	50	30	40	20	10	10	20	~
Medical Discharge	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	~
Other Wastage	10	20	20	~	~	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>

Source: Analysis (Army), FMed 23, DMICP, JPA

<b>RAF</b>									
Voluntary Outflow	30	40	40	30	40	40	30	30	40
Time Expiry	30	30	30	20	20	20	10	20	20
Medical Discharge	~	~	10	10	10	10	~	10	10
Other Wastage	60	30	20	20	10	20	10	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>

Source: Analysis (Air), FMed 23, DMICP, JPA

### Notes:

1. UK Regulars comprise of Full-time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding FTRS personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, MPGS, LEP and NRPS
2. Trained Strength comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training for Royal Navy/Royal Marines, the Army (prior to 1 October 2016) and the Royal Air Force. Following the change in definition of trained strength from 1 October 2016 trained strength for the Army comprises of personnel who have completed Phase 1 training
3. Trade-Trained Strength comprises Army personnel who have completed Phase 1 and Phase 2 training
4. Analysis Navy and Analysis Air are unable to identify Direct Entry Officers, therefore Exits for RN/RM and RAF are for all Female Officers. Analysis Army are able to identify Direct Entry Officers, therefore Exits for Army are Direct Entry Female Officers
5. Voluntary Outflow (VO) is defined as all exits from trained (RN/RM & RAF) and trade trained (Army) personnel which are voluntarily generated by the individual before the end of their agreed engagement or commission period
6. Time Expiry is defined as all exits from Trained and Trade-Trained personnel reaching the end of their contract
7. Medical discharges are the result of a number of specialists (medical, occupational, psychological, personnel, etc.) coming to the conclusion that an individual is suffering from a medical condition that pre-empts their continued service in the armed forces
8. Other Wastage has been defined as outflow from the trained (RN/RM & RAF) and trade trained (Army) strength due to Admin/Discipline, Redundancy, Death and Other Outflow

~ 5 or fewer

- zero

Medical discharges are the result of a number of specialists (medical, occupational, psychological, personnel, etc.) coming to the conclusion that an individual is suffering from a medical condition that pre-empts their continued service in the armed forces. Statistics based on these discharges do not represent measures of true morbidity or pathology. At best they indicate a minimum burden of ill-health in the armed forces. Furthermore, the number and diversity of processes involved with administering a medical discharge introduce a series of time lags, as well as impact on the quality of data recorded.

Information on medical discharges was sourced from electronic medical records (DMICP) and manually entered paper documents (FMed 23s). The primary purpose of these medical documents is to ensure the appropriate administration of each individual patient's discharge. Statistical analysis and reporting are secondary functions.

Defence Statistics release annual updates on medical discharges in the UK armed forces as an Official Statistic publication. The last statistical release was on 15 July 2021 which presented data up to 31 March 2021. The latest report can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-discharges-among-uk-service-personnel-statistics-index>

Defence Statistics release quarterly updates for UK service personnel statistics on strengths, requirements, intake, applications and outflow, by service. The latest statistical release was on 27 May 2021 which presented data up to 31 March 2021. The latest Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics (SPS) can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-service-personnel-statistics-2021>.

Please note that UK Regular Forces Trained/ Trade-Trained Outflow, by Service and Exit Reason is reported in the Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics in which medical discharges are included in Other Wastage. Armed Forces statistics are compiled from Service personnel records from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. Statistics for Full-time personnel have been compiled from JPA for the Royal Air Force since April 2006, for the Royal Navy / Royal Marines since November 2006 and for the Army since April 2007. As the JPA system is validated before DMICP and FMed 23s, it may not capture every medical discharge due to the time lag involved with administering a medical discharge for DMICP and FMed 23s databases, therefore UK Regular Forces Trained/ Trade-Trained Outflow, by Service and Exit Reason in the Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics are not comparable with Medical Discharges among UK Service Personnel Statistics.

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.

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,

Analysis (Tri-Service)