



Ministry of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2021/06998**

Date: **29/07/2021**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 30 June 2021 requesting the following information:

"I would like to have figures for the last 5 years for numbers of recruits for each service. I would like this broken down by county across England for each year. For Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales I am happy for the information to be given for the whole of each country – I do not require county breakdown. As well as the absolute numbers e.g. 6000, please could I also have the figures as a percentage of the local working age population (aged 16-64) for each area."

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 of the information in scope of your request is held. We do not hold information on the size of the local working age population in these areas. Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you might find it useful to know that you could approach the Office for National Statistics, who may hold the data responsible for answering this part of your question.

Please find attached an excel sheet documenting a yearly breakdown of recruitment of untrained¹ UK Regular² personnel by County³ within the UK as at 1 April 2021.

Notes/Caveats:

1. Figures are for untrained personnel on intake, both Officers and Other Ranks.
2. 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.
3. County has been identified by merging the Parliamentary Constituency on intake as previously published in the Annual Location Statistics publication as at 1 April 2021. Parliamentary constituency has been derived from Contact Postcode as recorded in the Defence Recruitment System (DRS). For the Army Parliamentary constituency has been derived using the Postcode District only, not the full Postcode, as per the information held in ARITC management information system. Due to this, there could be instances where a Postcode District covers more than one Parliamentary Constituency. Where this occurs, personnel are

assigned to the Parliamentary Constituency where the majority of a Postcode District lies. For example Dudley South (Postcode Districts B64, DY1, DY2, DY5, DY6, DY8) has no reported intake in the above table, due to none of the Postcode Districts having a majority of constituent Postcodes within the constituency, meaning any true Dudley South intake is assigned to the Constituency where the Postcode District has a majority of constituent Postcodes, which in this case could be Dudley North (Postcode Districts DY1, DY2, DY3, DY4, DY5, WV14, WV4). County is distinct from Local Authority.

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 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

Yours sincerely,

Analysis (Tri-Service)