



Ministry of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2021/06829**

Date: **8th July 2021**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 28 June 2021 requesting the following information:

“precise information on the number of Fijian serving personnel (and their dependant families) by location.”

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 can confirm some of the information in scope of your request is held.

In total, there are 1920 Regulars¹ listed as Fijian Nationals² on JPA (please find attached Excel sheets with further breakdowns). The information available is a breakdown of Regulars of Fijian Nationality by Region³, County³ and Local Authority³. We do not hold information on the location of the dependent families of Regular personnel.

Notes and 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. Figures for UK regulars include both trained and untrained personnel.
2. Nationality as recorded in the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA). Nationality is a non-mandatory field; therefore it is as currently recorded (as of 1 April 2021) and not necessarily the same as at birth or when recruited. Therefore, Citizen of Fiji personnel who have changed nationality (for example naturalised to a British Citizen) may or may not have updated their JPA record.
3. Region, County and Local Authority as recorded in Joint Personnel Administration (JPA). The figures are based on Service personnel's stationed location and not their location of residence – where personnel work isn't necessarily where they live. Personnel deployed on operations to an area away from their stationed location are shown against their most recent stationed location. The

Royal Navy/Royal Marines personnel on sea service are included against the local authority containing the home port of their ship.

In line with JSP 200 on statistical disclosure, suppression methodology has been applied to ensure individuals are not inadvertently identified dependent on the risk of disclosure. Therefore, 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. 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 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.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)