



Ministry  
of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2021/12605**

[REDACTED]

Date: **12<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 19 October 2021 requesting the following information:

***“...enquire about the estimated number of children there are at present with at least one parent serving in the British Armed Forces, in the UK or overseas.”***

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 that information in scope of your request is held.

As at 1 April 2021, there were 105,330<sup>1</sup> children with at least 1 parent serving in the UK Regular Forces<sup>2</sup>. Of these, 91,000<sup>1</sup> were aged under eighteen years old, while 14,330<sup>1</sup> were aged eighteen years old or over.

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.

**Notes:**

1. The figure is an estimate because the 'children' field of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) database from which the data has been sourced has not been validated. It is a field that Service Personnel fill in themselves. Figures will also include some double counting where two Service Personnel have had children together and both declared them on JPA.
2. UK Regular Forces 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. Includes trained and untrained personnel.

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](mailto:Analysis_Tri_Service@mod.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Analysis Tri Service  
Ministry of Defence