



Ministry of Defence

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3rd February 2022

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 3rd December 2021 in which you requested the following information:

- 1. Can you provide details of the number of soldiers serving in the three battalions of the Parachute Regiment who are Parachute trained. Can the figures be broken down by battalion?*
- 2. Can you also provide details of the number of soldiers who have joined the regiment for the last three years by year and how many of these were parachute trained?*
- 3. Can you provide figures for the number of parachute regiment soldiers who have been trained in parachuting for each of the last three years?*
- 4. Could you also provide a figure for the number of personnel serving in 16 Air Assault Brigade and the number who are parachute trained?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Some of this information is exempt under Section 26(1)(b) (Defence) of the Act and is therefore being withheld. Section 26 exempts information that, if disclosed, would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces. This is a qualified exemption which requires a public interest test to establish the balance on releasing or withholding information.

In this case, the arguments for release include the public interest in how Defence is run and the capability of the Parachute Regiment. Arguments to withhold information are that releasing figures of parachute trained personnel would directly disclose the operational capability of the Parachute Regiment. Once this information is in the public domain it is accessible to all – including potential adversaries. Furthermore, this information could be combined with other publicly available information to ascertain a more total picture of Defence capabilities. It has therefore been decided

that, on balance, the information should be withheld as release would be likely to be prejudicial to the capability, effectiveness and security of the British Army.

I can provide you information relating to your second and fourth questions, although where you ask for numbers of parachute trained personnel this information is withheld. Please see the attached document entitled "*FOI2021_14825_Rayment_Para_Trained_Detail*" for this information.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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/>.

Yours sincerely,

Workforce & Operations Team
Army Secretariat

FOI14825_ [REDACTED] Army Trade Trained Regular Personnel joining the Parachute Regiment from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021 by Financial Year, and Trade Trained Regular Strength of 16 Air Assault Brigade as at 1 October 2021

Question:

- "1. Under the FOI act, can you provide details of the number of soldiers serving in the three battalions of the Parachute Regiment who are Parachute trained. Can the figures be broken down by battalion?
2. Can you also provide details of the number of soldiers who have joined the regiment for the last three years by year and how many of these were parachute trained.
3. Can you provide figures for the number of parachute regiment soldiers who have been trained in parachuting for each of the last three years?
4. Could you also provide a figure for the number of personnel serving in 16 Air Assault Brigade and the number who are parachute trained?"

Question 2. Trade Trained Regulars² joining the Parachute Regiment from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021, by Financial Year

	Financial Year		
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total	180	220	200
Officers	10	20	10
Other Ranks	170	200	190

Source: Analysis (Army)

Question 4. Trade Trained Regular Strength⁴ of 16 Air Assault Brigade as at 1 October 2021

	Strength
16 Air Assault Brigade	4,560

Source: Analysis (Army)

Notes/Caveats:

1. The figures are for the Trade Trained Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, Army Reserve and all other Reserves, but includes those personnel that have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.
2. Question 2 figures include Trade Trained personnel who have inflow into the Parachute Regiment from other Armed Forces populations, Trade Trained personnel who have transferred into the Parachute Regiment from a different Arm/Service and personnel who have passed Trade Training and subsequently joined the Parachute Regiment, regardless of whether they are parachute trained.
- 3 There were circa 20 personnel in the time period who, according to the Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA), transferred into the Parachute Regiment from an unspecified Infantry Division. These personnel may have transferred from a different Infantry Division. These personnel have not been included in Question 2 figures.
4. For Question 4, the data has been provided by Analysis(Army) using information derived from the Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA). Units within 16 Air Assault Brigade have been identified using information supplied by Field Army which has not been verified by Analysis(Army).
5. Question 4 figures are only Trade Trained personnel in 16 Air Assault Brigade, regardless of whether they are parachute trained.
6. Figures have been rounded to 10 for presentational purposes; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.