



Ministry of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Further to my reply of 2 August in which you were requesting the following information:

"I'm requesting the following (please note, this is for each service individually):

- 1. Social media policy for all ranks, and any further guidance pertaining to social media that may be issued as required (for example, troops deploying on ops).*
- 2. Social media guidelines/brand guidance for social media content creators, community managers, producers, etc.*
- 3. The number of staff engaged in the operation, maintenance and content creation for each of the service's official social media accounts (as listed on their respective official website).*
- 4. For (3), an org chart showing this and the ranks of those employed. If civilian, please include pay band/grade. For the avoidance of doubt, I am interested in those whose substantive role is related to the official social media accounts.*
- 5. The number of photographers employed in the service, the ranks they hold, and the camera equipment (Camera body, lenses, flash, filters, etc.) used and editing software they utilise."*

I have been advised by the Ministry of Defence's statisticians that the official statistics for the photographer element of your request should have been rounded to anonymise them, as official statistics are always published in this format where numbers are low. For the photography part of your request I had sought the information directly from each of the single services photography team so had assumed the figures I was originally given were the ones I should be using. Apologies for any confusion caused. Please take this answer as the final response to your enquiry with the changes to question 5 inserted below.

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

A search for the information you requested has been carried out and I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence does hold information within the scope of your request. I will answer each of your question in turn.

Questions 1 and 2 are exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means). Section 21 is an absolute exemption and is therefore not subject to a public interest test.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you will find information within scope of this part of your request online via the UK Government website, as listed below:

A link to the MOD's Social Media Use policy page can be found below. This page also has a list of the main MOD departmental social media accounts including for recruitment purposes and is located here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/social-media-use>

The MOD has produced the following social media guidance to defence personnel:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/think-before-you-share>

The Single Services have their own social media policies, located below.

Royal Navy: <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/community-and-support/community/social-media>

British Army: <https://www.army.mod.uk/digital-communications/social-media-guidance/>

Royal Air Force: <https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/units/social-media-house-rules/>

You can find information relating to branding guidance here and the login for the defence brand portal:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-copyright-licensing-information>

<https://www.defencebrandportal.mod.uk/Users/Login>

Questions 3 and 4. The number of staff whose roles are solely engaged in the operation, maintenance, and content creation for each of the three branches of the Armed Forces official social media accounts are as follows:

Army 6 (1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Higher Executive Officer, 3 Executive Officers, 1 Captain)

RAF 3 (1 Higher Executive Officer, 1 Squadron Leader, 1 Senior Aircraftman)

Navy 0*

*The Navy does not have any posts solely dedicated to this function.

Question 5. The number of photographers in the Royal Navy, Army, and RAF by rank can be found in the table below. We do not hold recorded information regarding specific types of camera equipment and software used.

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. 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.

Trained and Trade-Trained UK Regular Photographers by NATO Rank, as at 1 April 2021

	RN/RM	Army	RAF
OR-9	~	~	~
OR-8	-	~	-
OR-7	~	10	~
OR-6	10	10	20
OR-4	20	20	30
OR-3	-	-	-
OR-1/OR-2	-	-	40
Total	40	50	100

~ 5 or fewer

- zero

Please note:

1. UK Regulars consists 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. The OR hierarchy is used differently by each Service. The Royal Marines and the Army use all OR ranks; the Royal Navy excludes OR3; and the Royal Air Force excludes OR8 and largely excludes OR3.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

DDC Secretariat Parliamentary