



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2021/12170**

[REDACTED]

Date: **23/02/2022**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 13th October requesting the following information:

“Under the FOI Act could you please advise on how many female, female Afro-Caribbean and Asian officers and male Afro-Caribbean and Asian officers are currently serving who are of the rank of colonel and above. I would like figures for the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. I would like separate figures for male and female officers.

I would like figures for the total number of colonels, Brigadiers, Major Generals, Lieutenant Generals and Generals and the equivalent in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

I would also like figures for the number of how many female, female and male Afro-Caribbean and Asian officers who have achieved these ranks by years since 2016 in each of the three-armed forces. I would like separate figures for male and female officers.

I would also like to know how many female, female and male Afro-Caribbean and Asian officers have been selected for the Advanced Staff and Command Course and Higher Command and Staff Course since 2016. I would like separate figures for both male and female officers.”

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 the information in scope of your request is partially held. Part 3 of your request is not held, and therefore we cannot provide a response to this. As for parts 1 and 2, please see below.

Table 1: The strength of UK Regulars¹, who were of NATO rank² OF-5 and above, by gender and service, as at 1 July 2021.

All Services	1570
RN/RM	410
Female	20
Male	390
Army	750
Female	60
Male	700
RAF	410
Female	40
Male	370

Table 2: The strength of UK Regulars¹, who were of NATO rank² OF-5 and above, and are of Asian or Black Caribbean ethnicity³, by gender and service, as at 1 July 2021.

Army	~
Male	~
Female	-

As for part 2 of your request, there were 0 Asian or Black Caribbean UK Regulars who were promoted to NATO Ranks of OF-5 and above, since January 2016 to December 2020.

Notes/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. Unless otherwise stated, includes trained and untrained personnel.

2. Figures are based on individuals paid rank.

3. Ethnic type as self-declared in JPA. Unknown includes those with an unrecorded ethnic type, and those who chose not to declare. For this FOI the following ethnicities were selected for: Any Chinese Background, Asian Bangladeshi, Asian Indian, Asian Pakistani, Black Caribbean, Other Asian Background.

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.

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)