



Ministry  
of Defence

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Reference: **FOI 2022/06574**

[Redacted]

Date: **28/06/2022**

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your emails received by the Ministry Of Defence on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 requesting the following information:

**“Do you have the latest statistics available regarding the number of UK service personnel who are married, single or are parents themselves?”**

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

We have now completed a search for the information you requested, and I can confirm that the of the information you have requested is held. Please find below tables that detail the information you request.

Please note: categories used to identify the marital status and number of children of a service personnel are not validated by Analysis-Tri-Service and are given as declared on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system; we cannot therefore guarantee the accuracy of these figures. Figures have therefore been marked <sup>e</sup> as estimates.

**Table 1: UK Regulars<sup>1</sup> by marital category<sup>2</sup> declaration as at 1 January 2022**

	UK Regulars	Married <sup>3</sup>	Not Married <sup>4</sup>	Unknown
<b>All Services</b>	<b>148,220</b>	<b>57,570<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>90,630<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>20<sup>e</sup></b>
Officers	28,320	16,400 <sup>e</sup>	11,920 <sup>e</sup>	~ <sup>e</sup>
Other Ranks	119,900	41,180 <sup>e</sup>	78,710 <sup>e</sup>	20 <sup>e</sup>

Source: Analysis (Tri-Service)

**Table 2: UK Regulars<sup>1</sup> by number of Children<sup>5</sup> under 18 declared as at 1 January 2022**

	<b>UK Regulars</b>
<b>All Services</b>	<b>148,220</b>
No Children	97,120 <sup>e</sup>
1 Child	21,550 <sup>e</sup>
2 Children	21,500 <sup>e</sup>
3 Children	6,170 <sup>e</sup>
4 or More Children	1,870 <sup>e</sup>

Source: Analysis (Tri-Service)

### 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. Unless otherwise stated, this includes trained and untrained personnel.
2. Marital Status is **self-declared** by the individual.
3. 'Married' includes the categories 'Married or in a Registered Civil Partnership', 'Married or in a Registered Civil Partnership to a Service Person who is 1S', 'Married or in a Registered Civil Partnership to Civil Servant or Individual within recognized Welfare' and 'Married or in a Registered Civil Partnership to Service Person who is 5S.'
4. 'Not Married' includes the categories 'Prime Carer and Provider for Child', 'Separated providing voluntary support', 'Separated providing support as a result of court order' and 'All other members of Armed Forces.'
5. Number of Children is **self-declared** by the individual and in this instance includes the number of children **aged under 18**.
6. Totals and subtotals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10, with numbers ending in "5" rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. '~' Indicate five or less records.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDP R. 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](mailto: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 at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,  
Analysis (Tri-Service)