



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: **FOI 2022/04701**

Date: **10th June 2022**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Defence on 8th April 2022 requesting the following information:

“Do you have access to statistics for recruitment and leavers of the Armed forces? Specifically into and leaving the Intelligence trades?”

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 held.

Under Section 21, I can advise the information on statistics for Intake and Outflow of the Armed Forces are published quarterly on Gov.uk. The latest Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics (SPS) as at 1 January 2022 can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-service-personnel-statistics-2022>

Under Section 26 (1)(b), I can advise the information on statistics for the Intelligence Trades has been withheld.

Section 26 are qualified exemptions and are subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 26(1)(b) has been applied because to release any information in relation to current strength, recruitment or leavers of any sensitive Branch or Specialisation of the Armed Forces could be used to derive tactical level information regarding the UK Armed Forces assessment of i) current and future threats and ii) current and planned responses to these threats and the level of personnel required to do so.

The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing any details on the assistance we provide to other states in that it would prejudice the security of UK personnel serving abroad and which would provide tactical advantage to our enemies and for these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of “would” rather than “would be likely to”.

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)