



**Defence Business Services**  
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Ref: FOI2022/09703

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13 September 2022

Thank you for your email of 18 August 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about numbers of MOD Civilian personnel and Trade Union membership.

You requested the following information:

*“Q1. What is the strength of the Ministry of Defence Civil Service (MOD CS)?*

*Q2. I wonder if you are able to provide the figures of MOD CS who are members of the trade unions, broken down by union if possible?*

*PCS*

*Prospect*

*FDA*

*GMB*

*Unite”*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

I can confirm information is held to answer your first question but is withheld under Section 21 of the FOIA (Information accessible by other means).

Section 21 of the FOIA is an absolute exemption therefore we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest to provide the information. However, under Section 16 of the FOIA the requested information can be found at the link below;

[https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-biannual-civilian-personnel-report-april-2022/mod-biannual-civilian-personnel-report-april-2022#:~:text=The%20MOD%20civilian%20personnel%20strength,\(Excel%20ODS%20Table%2003\).](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-biannual-civilian-personnel-report-april-2022/mod-biannual-civilian-personnel-report-april-2022#:~:text=The%20MOD%20civilian%20personnel%20strength,(Excel%20ODS%20Table%2003).)

No information in scope of your second question is held. This is because Trade Union (TU) subscriptions are no longer deducted through the MOD payroll. When subscriptions were taken from pay reasonably accurate membership figures could be estimated based on those deductions, although there was no visibility of individuals who had chosen to pay membership through direct debits or other means. However, once MOD stopped collecting TU subscriptions, there was no longer any means of identifying TU members.

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,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Defence Business Services Secretariat