



Ministry  
of Defence



# UK Defence in Numbers 2022



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# Foreword



The last year has illustrated the continued importance of UK Defence with the most serious threat to European security since the end of the Cold War. The UK has worked from the outset to support Ukraine and counter Russian aggression, and our armed forces have reinforced their

leading role within NATO through additional airspace policing in Eastern Europe, leading NATO's enhanced Forward Presence in Estonia, and increased patrols at sea.

The role of Defence and our armed forces is, of course, much wider. From our contribution in the Indo-Pacific, commitment to peace in the Middle East, and partnering with the UN and others in humanitarian efforts. This publication, Defence in Numbers, sets out some of the key facts and figures that underpin that role. From maintaining the UK's position as having the third largest Defence spend in the world, and the biggest NATO spender in Europe, to the size of our regular and reserve armed forces. It contains information on the UK's Continuous At-Sea Deterrence (now provided for over 50 years) as well as our contribution to sustainability, assisting civil authorities, and our central role in the ceremonial duties following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

This booklet also highlights Defence's spending with UK Industry. In 2021/22, we spent over £20 billion with UK Industry. That money supports around 141,000 direct jobs across the UK and a further 78,000 jobs through industry supply chains, from Scotland to the Southwest and from Northern Ireland to Norfolk. The UK is also exporting more of our expertise to allies across the world with Australia, Canada and Indonesia among those nations to have committed to our frigate designs. The UK can be proud to have world-class talent in areas stretching from aerospace to cyberspace.

The world around us is changing and the threats evolving. However, as this booklet sets out, UK Defence will remain a constant. Helping Ukraine defend its liberty, ensuring we can protect the UK, its territories and allies and deter future dangers, while investing in economic activity across the country.

**David Williams CB**

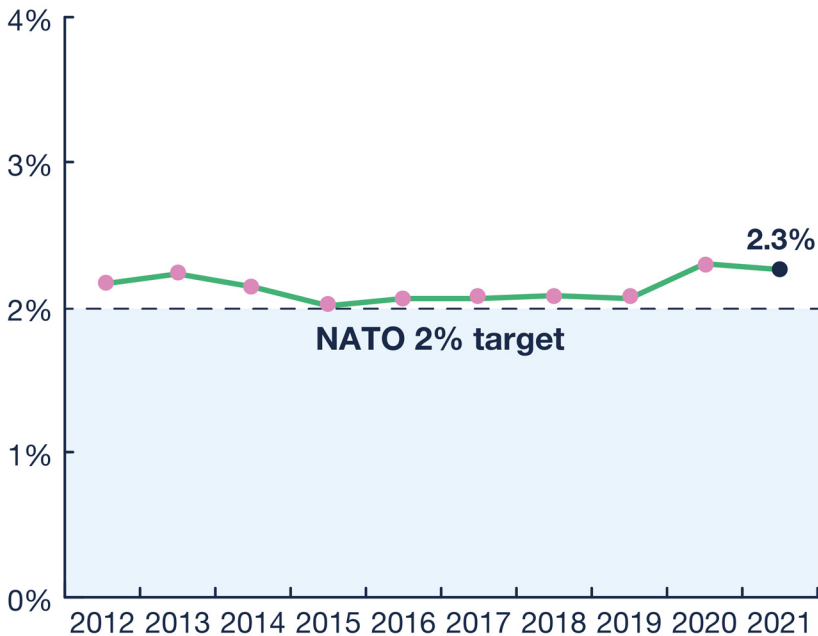
Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Defence

# Defence spending

In 2021/22, the MOD spent **£45.9 billion**.<sup>1</sup>

Total capital expenditure was **£14.2 billion**, investing in equipment and infrastructure.

Our defence expenditure as a percentage of National GDP is **2.3%**. We have met the NATO target every year since its introduction in 2006.

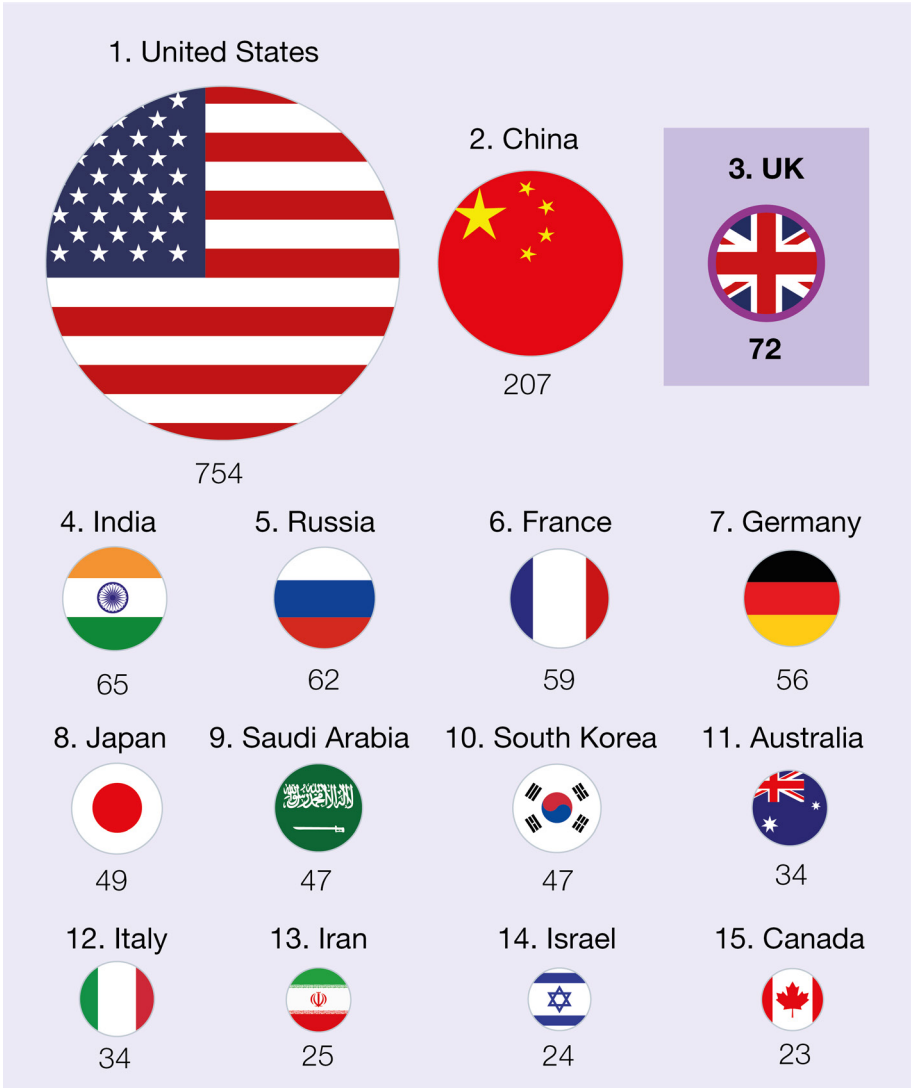


Source: NATO Defence Expenditures of NATO Countries, MOD Departmental Resources 2022

<sup>1</sup> Departmental spending figures for 2021/22 do not reflect an uptick in spending due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

# The UK has the third largest defence budget in the world.<sup>2</sup>

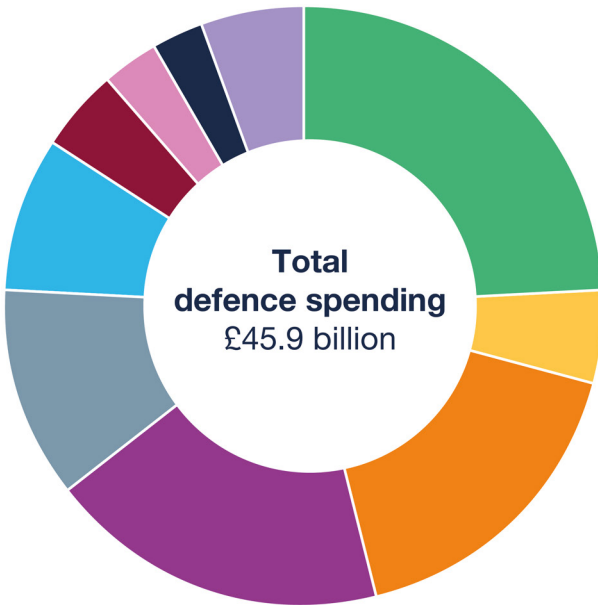
Top 15 defence budgets 2021 (US \$ billions)



Source: IISS Military Balance 2022

<sup>2</sup> Based on the IISS definition of 'defence'. This will differ to government departmental budgets (such as the MOD spending figure on page 6)

## In 2021/22 the breakdown of defence spending was:



- Service personnel: **24.3%**
- Civilian personnel: **4.9%**
- Equipment support: **16.9%**
- Specialist military equipment: **18.4%**
- Infrastructure: **11.3%**
- Property and other equipment: **8.4%**
- Research and development: **4.5%**
- Inventory: **3.1%**
- Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) Bespoke Trading Entity: **2.6%**
- Other: **5.5%**

Source: MOD Departmental Resources 2022



We work with cutting-edge tech and professional innovation.

In 2021/22 the MOD spent **£1.8 billion** on Frascati-defined research and development (R&D). Part of a commitment to invest at least **£6.6 billion** in R&D over the next four years.

- R&D conducted in-house at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and the Atomic Weapons Establishment: **£500 million**



- R&D conducted outside the department: **£1.3 billion**

**38%** of extramural R&D was spent in the South East, South West and London. As part of the government's Levelling Up agenda, MOD are striving to spread R&D expenditure more evenly across the UK.

MOD spent **£120 million** in 2021/22 to initiate investment in **five** new R&D pipelines, including Spearhead and Gamechanger Innovation Programmes to enable a decisive strategic edge through R&D.

So far, a total of **£1 billion** R&D investment has been made in the Future Combat Air System Technology Initiative to develop the next generation of fighter aircraft. This is being invested across the UK through industry partners, with a further **£1 billion** additional investment planned.

Source: Departmental Resources 2022 and sources within MOD

## Where we spend our money

In 2021/22 the MOD spent **£21.1 billion** with UK Industry, the equivalent of **£310** per person. Of this direct spend, **5%** went to small and medium-sized enterprises.



**£5.34 billion**

in technical, financial services  
and other business



**£4.29 billion**

in shipbuilding and repairing



**£1.98 billion**

on aircraft and spacecraft



**£1.39 billion**

in construction

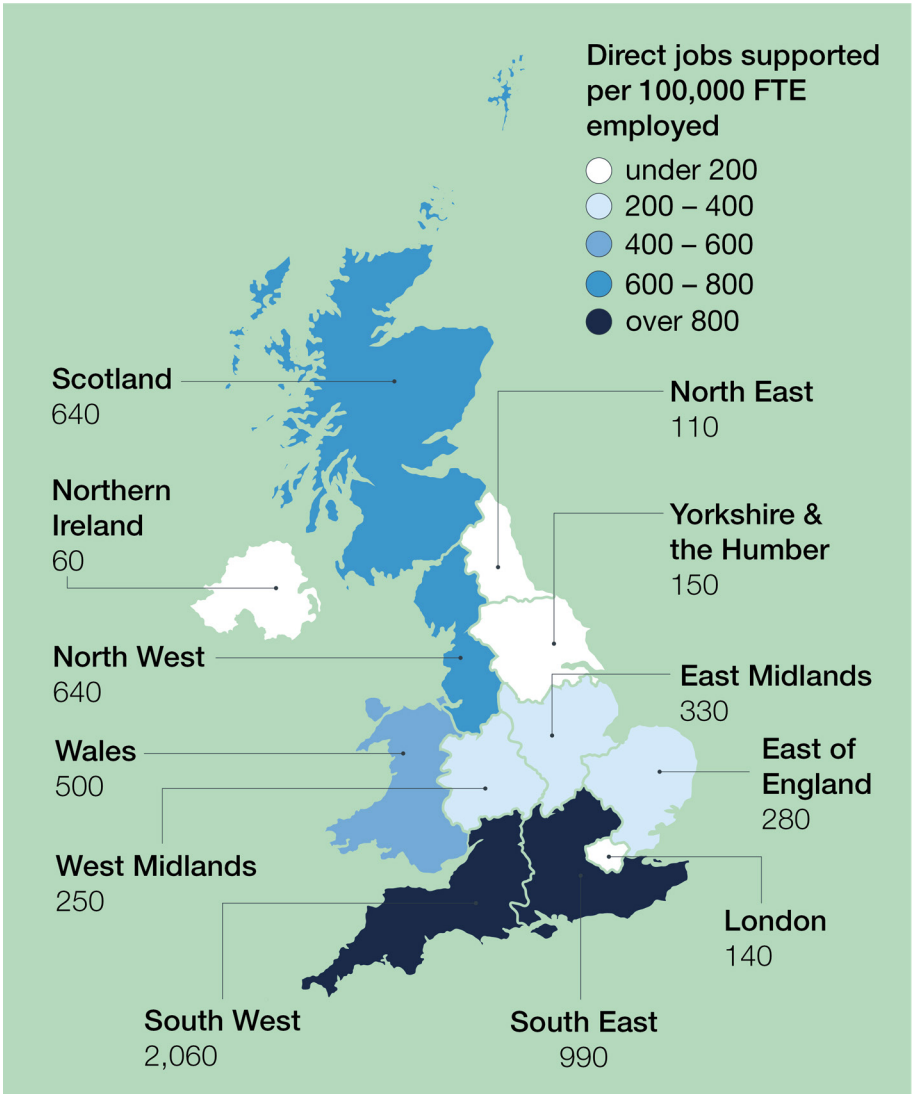


**£950 million**

on weapons and ammunition

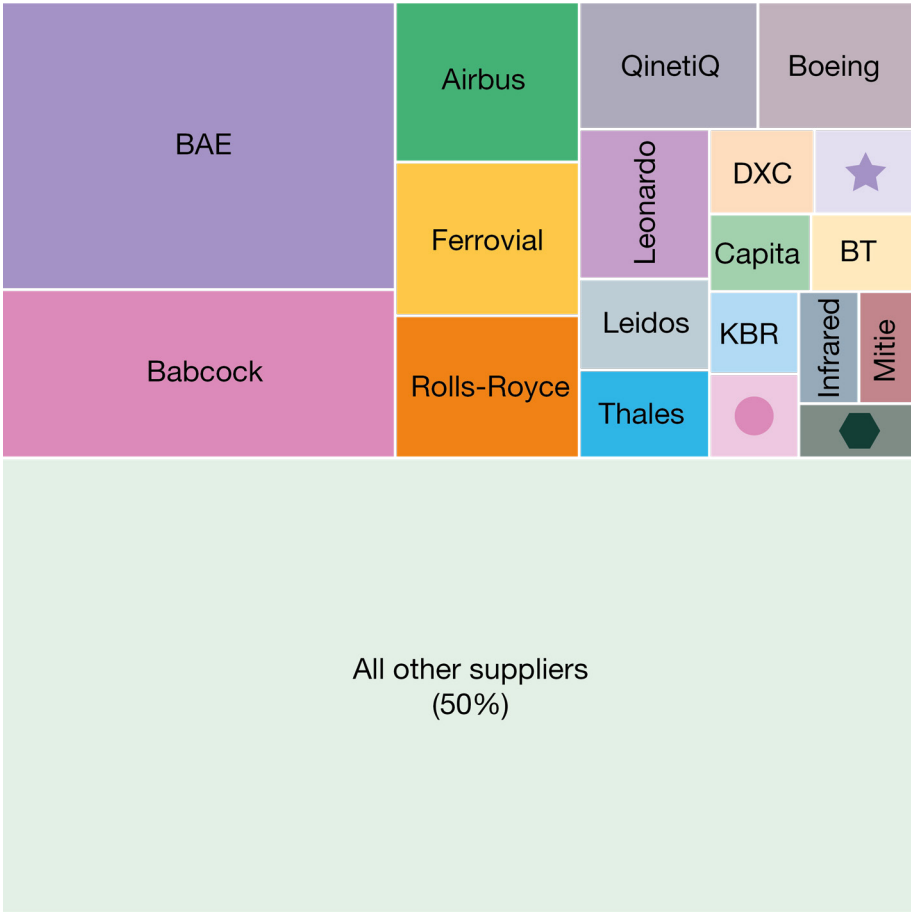
Source: MOD Regional Expenditure with UK Industry and Supported Employment 2021/22




In 2020/21 MOD expenditure supported an estimated **219,000** direct and indirect jobs in the UK, the equivalent of **1 in every 120 jobs**.



Source: MOD Regional Expenditure with UK Industry and Supported Employment 2020/21

In 2021/22, **50%** of total MOD procurement expenditure was with **19 suppliers**.



-  Lockheed Martin
-  Innisfree
-  Agence des participations de l'État

Source: MOD Trade, Industry and Contracts 2022

In 2021/22 the MOD spent **£1.1 billion** purchasing equipment through **Foreign Military Sales** agreements with the US.

This includes:

- **£388 million** on Apache helicopters. A total of 50 Boeing AH-64E Apache helicopters have been ordered to replace the old Apache Mk.1, which first entered service in 2001. The new aircraft will offer many improvements over the older model and is scheduled for full operating capability by December 2024.
- **£370 million** on P-8A Poseidon, a multi-role maritime patrol aircraft operated out of RAF Lossiemouth. The Poseidon provides detection, location, identification, tracking and attack of above and below water targets, contributing to anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface unit warfare.
- **£86 million** on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems including Protector, the next generation successor to Reaper.

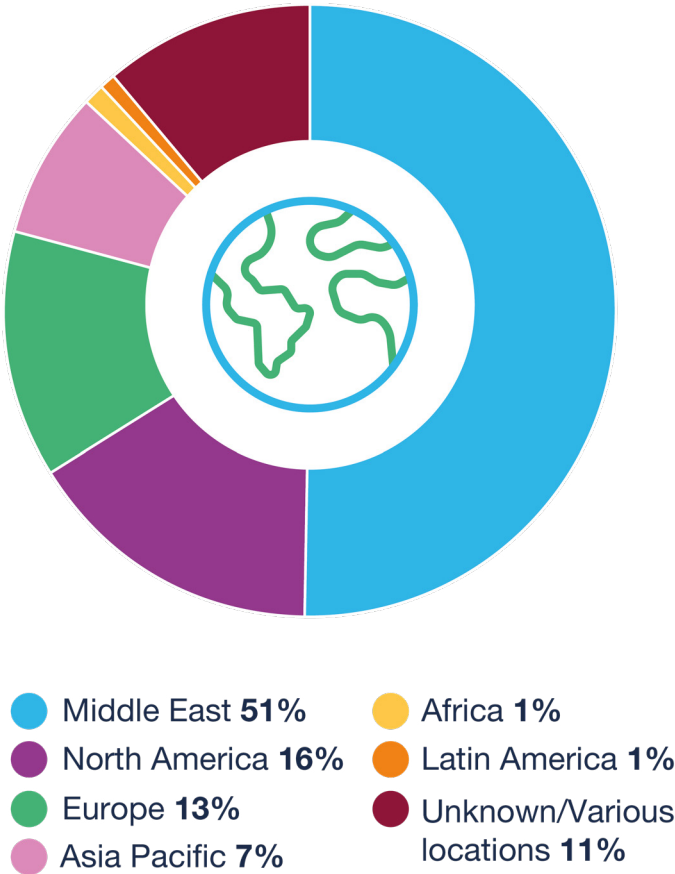


Source: MOD Trade, Industry and Contracts 2022

Our defence industry is the second largest defence exporter in the world across the last decade, and the largest in Europe.

**72%** of UK defence export orders over that period were in the aerospace sector and predominantly to the Middle East.

### **UK defence export orders to regions, 2012 – 2021**



Source: UK Defence and Security Exports for 2021

We plan to spend **£242 billion** on equipment procurement and support over the next 10 years.



**Nuclear Enterprise – £67.7 billion**

All submarines and Atomic Weapons Establishment



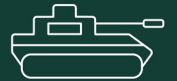
**Defence Digital – £28.0 billion**

Ensuring defence has the latest IT systems and services available



**Ships – £22.3 billion**

e.g. Fleet Solid Support Ships and Type 26, Type 31 and Type 32 Frigates



**Land equipment – £17.4 billion**

e.g. Ajax, Boxer and Morpheus



**Weapons – £17.3 billion**

e.g. air defence weapons, air and land launched missiles



**Air support – £15.7 billion**

e.g. A400M



**Combat air – £19.4 billion**

e.g. Future Combat Air Systems (FCAS)



**Helicopters – £10.8 billion**

e.g. Merlin, Apache, Chinook



**Integrated battlespace – £6.5 billion**

Air traffic management and multiple small programmes

Source: Defence Equipment Plan 2022-2032

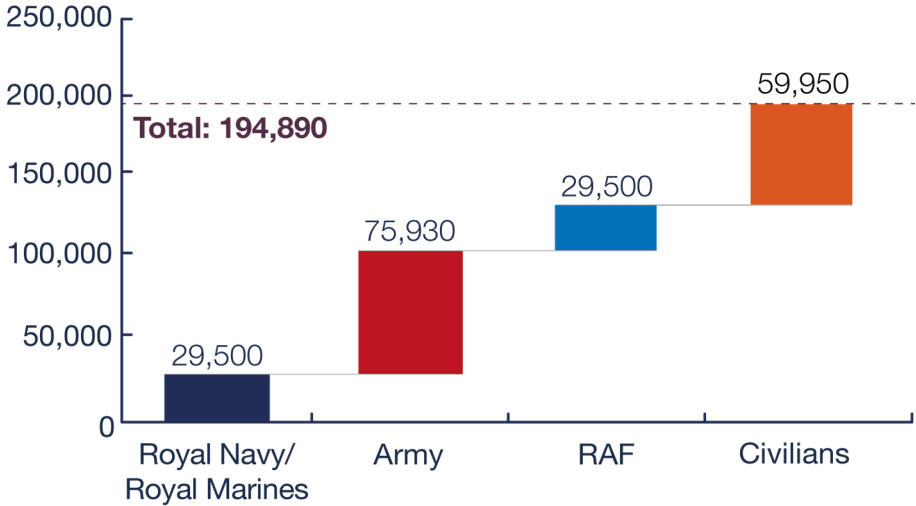
## Our people



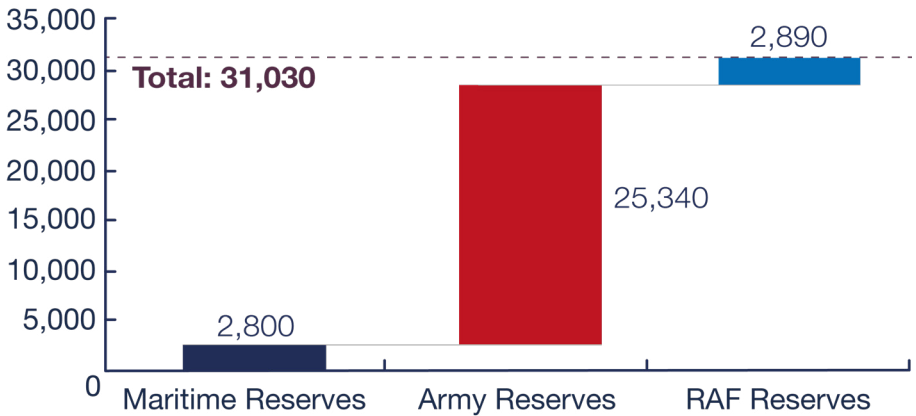
Source: [www.defenceimagery.mod.uk](http://www.defenceimagery.mod.uk)



## Regular Trained Strength and Civilians as at 1 October 2022<sup>3</sup>



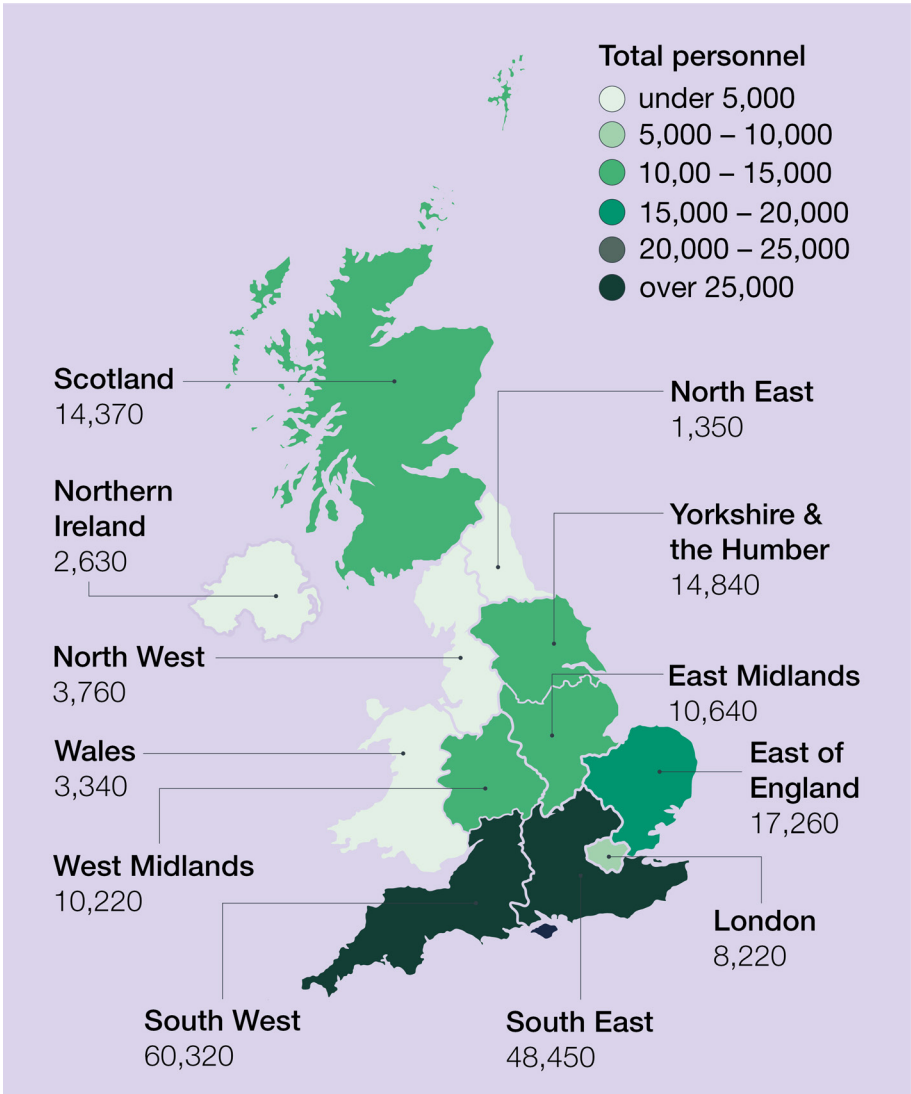
## Future Reserves 2020 Trained Strength as at 1 October 2022<sup>4</sup>



Source: MOD Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics (QSPS) 1 October 2022; MOD Biannual Civilian Personnel report October 2022

- 3 Defined as Military Full-Time Trained Strength (RN/RM and RAF), Trade Trained Strength (Army).
- 4 FR20 includes Volunteer Reserves who are mobilised, High Readiness Reserves and those Volunteer Reserves serving on Full-time Reserve Service (FTRS) and Additional Duties Commitment (ADC).

There is a strong national presence with over **140,000** UK regular forces stationed in the UK and a nearly **54,000** strong MOD civilian workforce.

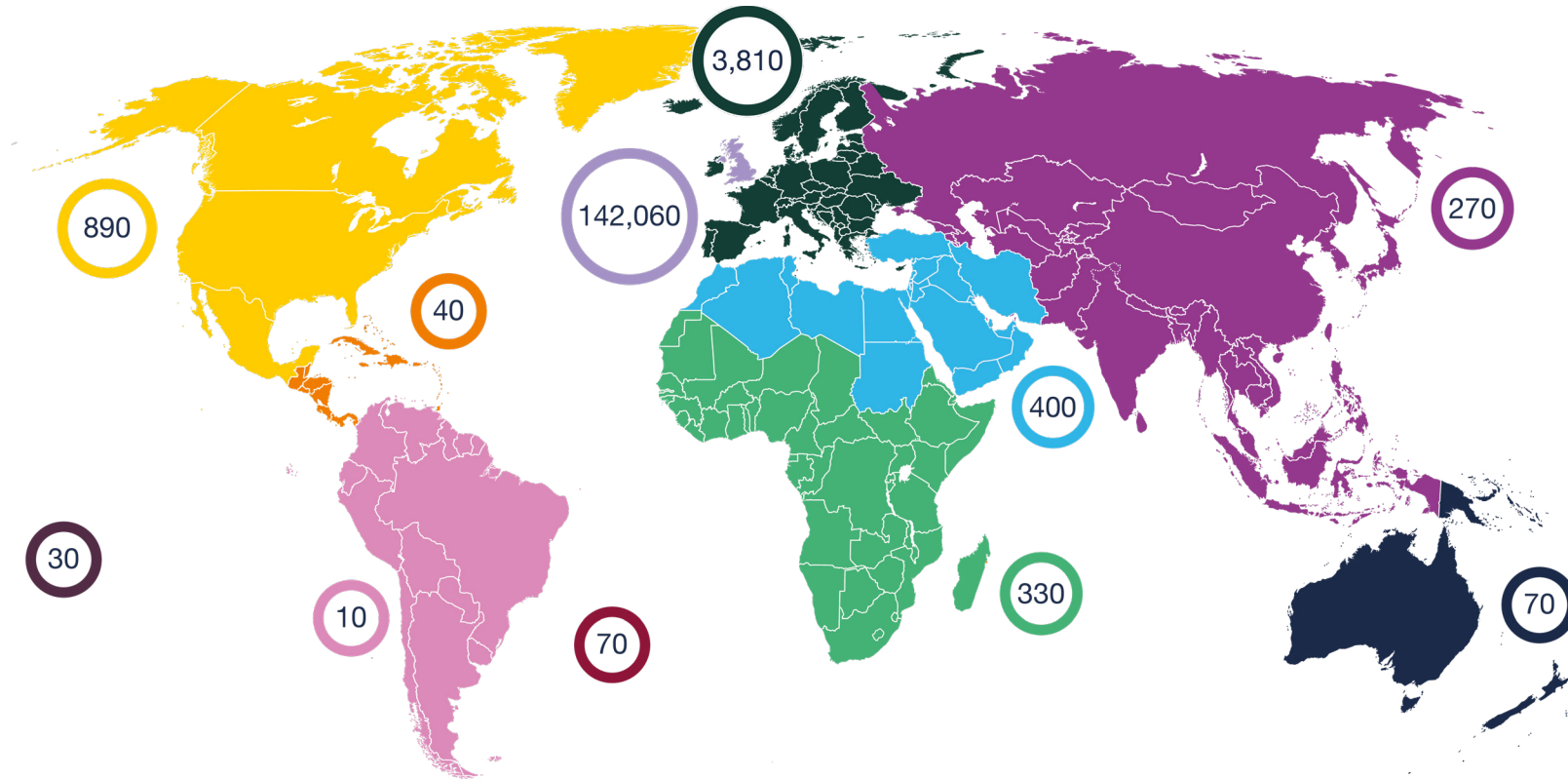


Source: Location Statistics for UK Regular Armed Forces and Civilians, April 2022



Source: [www.defenceimagery.mod.uk](http://www.defenceimagery.mod.uk)

**Our regular forces are also stationed all around the world projecting a global presence.**



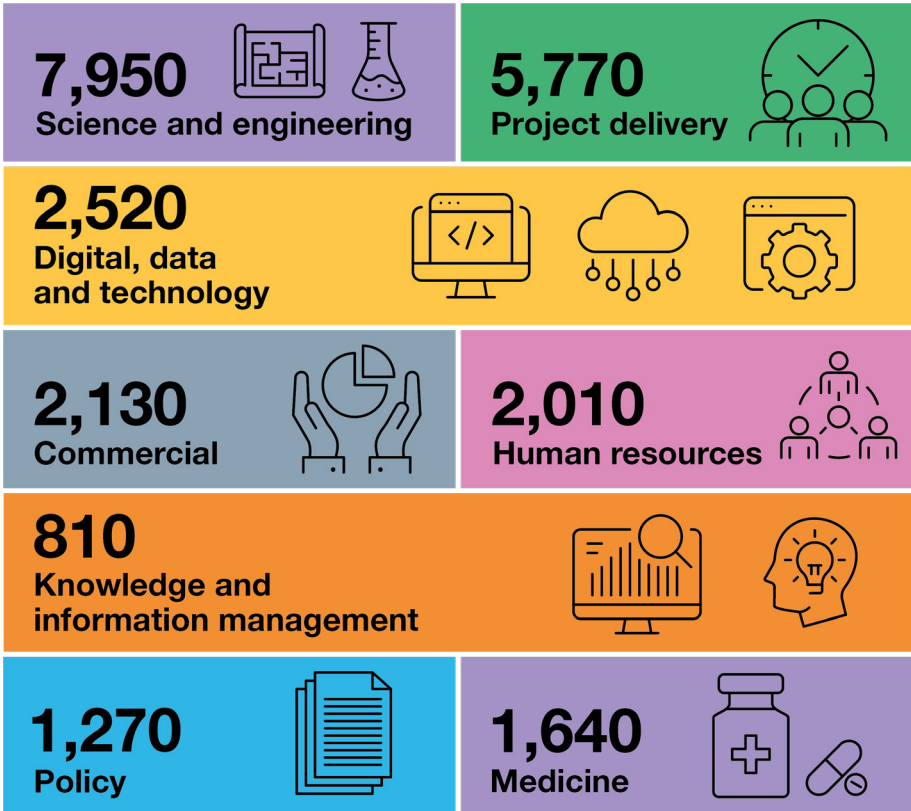
- UK: **142,060**
- Europe: **3,810**
- Asia (excl. Middle East): **270**
- North Africa/Middle East: **400**
- Sub-Saharan Africa: **330**
- North America: **890**
- Central America/Caribbean: **40**
- South America: **10**
- South Atlantic: **70**
- Oceania: **70**
- Unallocated: **30**

The UK regular forces comprises trained and untrained personnel and excludes Gurkhas, full time reserve service personnel and mobilised reservists. Personnel deployed on operations and temporary assignments are shown against their permanent stationed location. As such, figures for locations such as in North Africa/Middle East and South Atlantic exclude large numbers of personnel deployed in those locations.

Source: MOD Location of UK Regular Service and Civilian Personnel Annual Statistics: April 2022

The breadth of tasks performed by civilians in the MOD is significant. They perform over **200** different roles, from police, doctors, teachers and firefighters, to guards, drivers and facility managers. MOD civilians are based at over **500** locations. Nearly half of them work in parts of the UK classified as rural or semi-rural and over 6,000 work overseas.

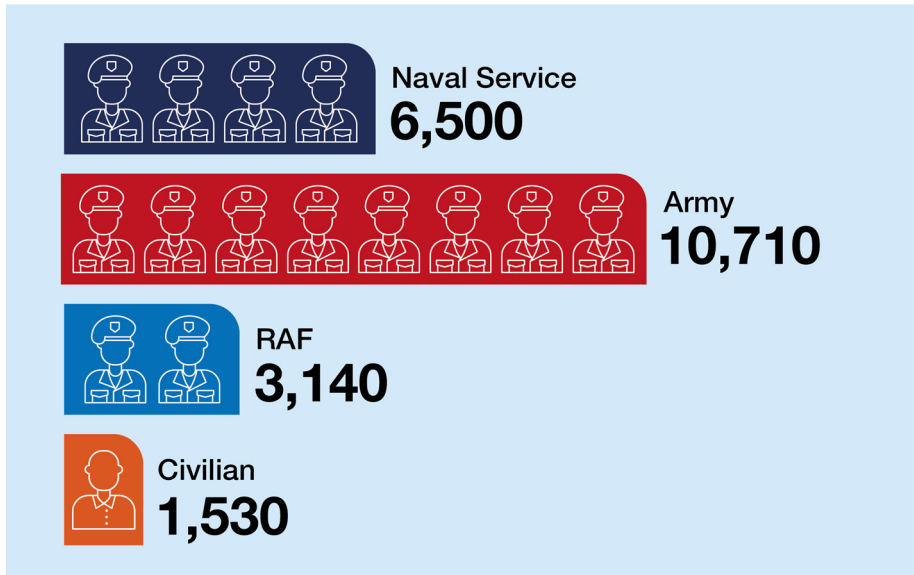
Some of the professions in the MOD civilian workforce (FTE, as at 31 March 2022) include:



Source: Civil Service Statistics, 2022

We continued to **offer apprenticeships to approximately 90%** of armed forces recruits, with over 50% of those in science and technology fields.

As at 1 October 2022, there were over **21,870** current civilian and military apprenticeships being undertaken.

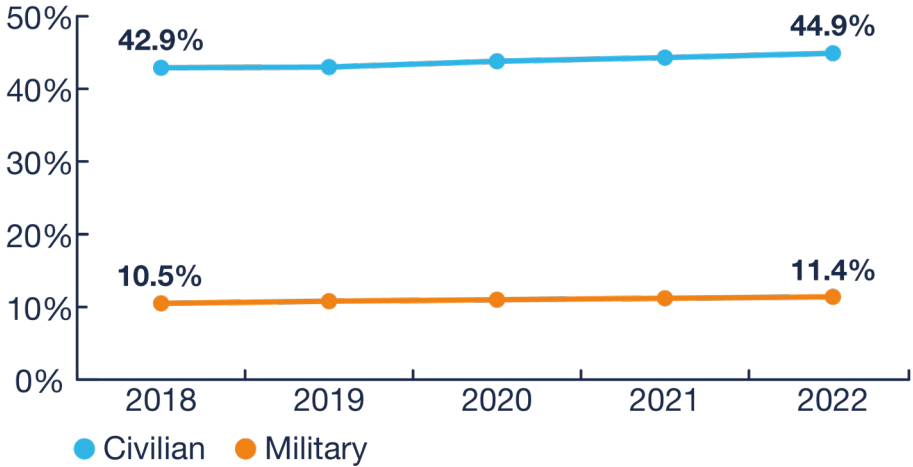


The MOD sponsors five cadet forces in schools and the community with a total of **124,080 cadets** as at April 2022.

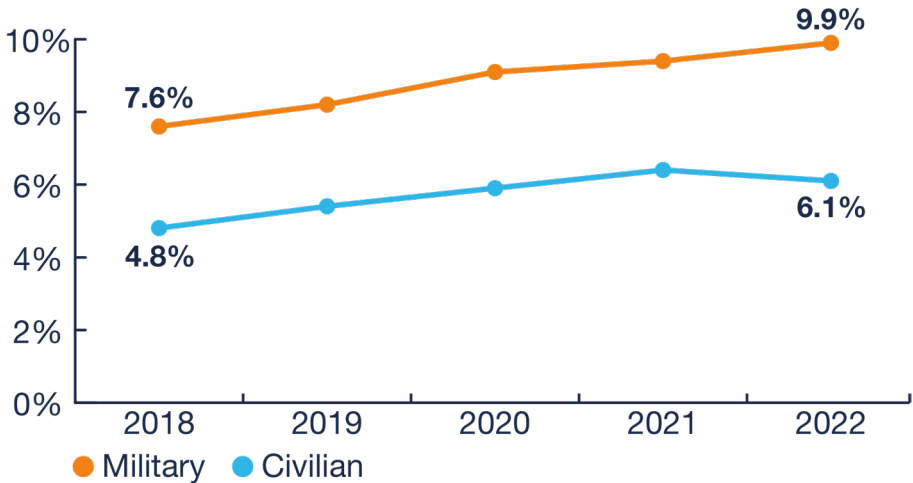
Source: MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22 and sources within MOD; MOD Sponsored Cadet Forces Statistics

The department is committed to developing a more inclusive culture in defence and a diverse workforce at all levels.

Female representation:



Ethnic minority (excluding white minorities) representation:



Source: MOD Diversity Dashboard: October 2022, UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics: October 2022

The Career Transition Partnership supports service leavers in their transition from military to civilian life through a range of career and employment support services

Over **12,200** armed forces service leavers were eligible to use the Career Transition Partnership in 2020/21. Of those who did, **83%** reported they were employed within six months.

**The most reported occupations were:**

**19%**

**skilled trade occupations**



**18%**

**associate professional and technical services**



**16%**

**elementary occupations**



**16%**

**professional occupations**



Source: Career Transition Partnership ex-service personnel employment outcomes, 2020/21



# Sustainability

The Greening Government Commitments sets out the actions UK government departments and their partner organisations will take to reduce their impacts on the environment. The MOD continues to work towards the targets set out in the Greening Government Commitments. In support of climate sustainability, since 2017/18:

- CO2 emissions from domestic flights have reduced by **62%** against a 2025 target reduction of **30%**
- paper use has seen a reduction of **51%** against a 2025 target reduction of **50%**

## Other activities

The Army are investing, through Project PROMETHUS, in on-site renewable energy generation opening the first of **four** solar farms at the Defence School of Transport in Leconfield.

In November 2021 the RAF and Zero Petroleum were awarded a Guinness World Record for the world's first successful flight using only synthetic fuel.

Following this success, in November 2022 the RAF and industry partners have carried out a world-first **100%** sustainable fuel flight using a military aircraft of its size, and the first of any aircraft type in the UK.

Source: MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22



Source: [www.defenceimagery.mod.uk](http://www.defenceimagery.mod.uk)

## Defence activities

In 2021/22 MOD delivered **264 Military Aid to Civilian Authorities** operations, deploying over **7,790** personnel. This included **70** requests in response to **COVID-19** and deploying **2,245** service personnel.

Counter Narcotics teams stopped **over 11 metric tonnes of illicit drugs**.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams performed **2,032 Conventional Munitions Disposals** and **204 Improvised Explosive Devices disposals**.

**520 personnel** on deployment for **UN Peacekeeping missions**, including **250 in Mali** and **250 in Cyprus** (as at 31 October 2022).



Source: MOD Annual Report and Accounts, UN Peacekeeping contributors

## The Royal Funeral

Nearly **6,000** members of UK armed forces were deployed on ceremonial duties, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

This included:

- **846** from the Royal Navy
- **4,416** from the British Army
- **686** from the Royal Air Force

Around **175** members of armed forces personnel from the militaries of Commonwealth nations also took part.



Source: MOD

## Continuous At-Sea Deterrence

We have provided a **Continuous At-Sea Deterrence** for over 50 years.

HMS Vanguard, Victorious, Vigilant and Vengeance, the four Royal Navy Vanguard Class submarines patrol the world's oceans 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



### Vanguard at a glance

**Global range: unlimited**

**Top speed: 25+ knots**

**Total displacement: 15,900 tonnes**

**Overall length: 150 metres**

Source: [www.royalnavy.mod.uk](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk)

## Support to Ukraine

Prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the **UK trained 22,000 Ukrainian troops** between 2015 and February 2022 through Op ORBITAL.

Op INTERFLEX, launched in July 2022, has **used 1,200 British troops to rapidly train 4,710 Ukrainian personnel**, including in high-value roles such as long range and precision fires.

Since February 2022 the UK has committed **£2.3 billion in military assistance** to Ukraine and pledged to match current support in 2023.



### In 2022, the UK provided military aid to Ukraine including:

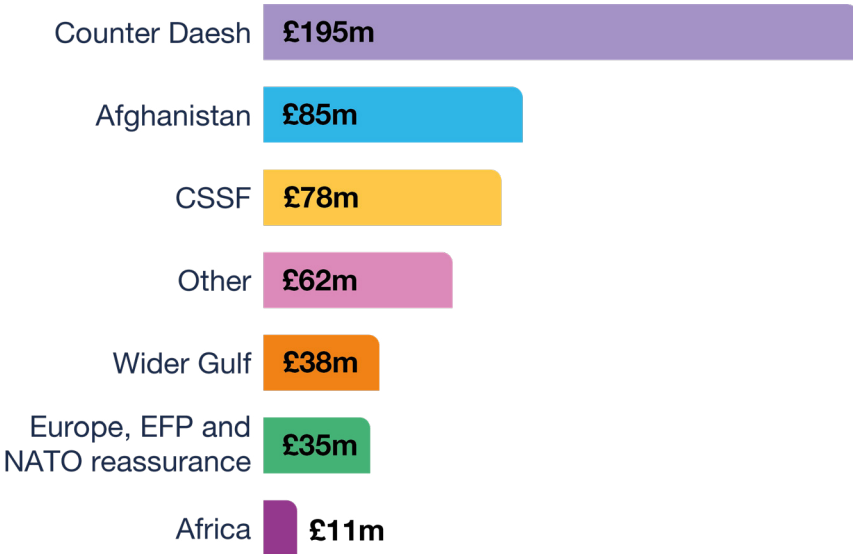
- over **10,000** anti-tank missiles and weapons
- **thousands** of short- and medium-range air defence missiles
- almost **100,000** artillery rounds
- more than **64** artillery guns
- multiple launch rocket systems
- **three million** rounds of small arms ammunition
- over **200** armoured vehicles.

The UK has also sent over **160,000** items of non-lethal aid, including body armour, helmets, night vision devices and medical equipment.

Source: MOD Annual Report and Accounts 21/22, House of Commons Library and sources within MOD

We protect the nation and the freedoms our communities enjoy today.

In 2021/22 MOD expenditure on operations was **£502 million**.



Source: Departmental Resources 2022





Produced by Analysis Directorate

Designed by Design102

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