



# Ministry of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
FLOOR 5, ZONE B, MAIN BUILDING  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

**RT HON DR ANDREW MURRISON MP**  
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AND MINISTER  
FOR DEFENCE PEOPLE, VETERANS AND SERVICE FAMILIES

Our ref: FOI2022/12882e

16 December 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 2 November 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

1. *"The total number of staff in your department, by financial year, since 2010.*
2. *The total number of FTE mental health sick days lost, broken down by financial year, since 2010."*

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 all information in scope of your request is held.

*Q1: "The total number of staff in your department, by financial year, since 2010."*

A1. Civilian Personnel Strength by Full Time Equivalent (FTE) from 1 April 2010 to 1 April 2022 can be found in the table below:

Date	MOD Main TLBs	Trading Fund & Executive Agencies	Total
01 April 2010	63,590	9,735	73,325
01 April 2011	60,777	9,352	70,129
01 April 2012	52,514	7,113	59,626
01 April 2013	48,074	7,171	55,245
01 April 2014	46,584	7,110	53,693
01 April 2015	46,755	4,495	51,250
01 April 2016	35,704	14,240	49,944
01 April 2017	35,375	15,127	50,502
01 April 2018	34,448	16,275	50,723
01 April 2019	35,005	16,624	51,629
01 April 2020	34,984	17,853	52,837
01 April 2021	36,345	18,100	54,445
01 April 2022	35,837	18,525	54,361

[REDACTED]

**Notes:**

1. Data has been sourced from the Human Resources Management System (HRMS) & MYHR departmental personnel system for MOD Main Top Level Budgets (TLB) and Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) Trading Entity, and the equivalent HR systems for Trading Funds and Executive Agencies as of 1 April date points.
2. Data excludes personnel employed as either Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) personnel or Locally Engaged Civilians (LECs) for whom equivalent absence data is not held.
3. DE&S was reclassified as an Executive Agency Trading Entity from April 2016.

Q2. "The total number of FTE mental health sick days lost, broken down by financial year, since 2010."

A1. The total number of Mental Health sick days lost, by FTE, can be found in the table below:

Date Period	Number of Mental Health sick days lost by FTE
1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010	102,383
1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011	99,568
1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012	98,354
1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013	81,279
1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014	84,034
1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015	84,371
1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016	78,763
1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017	74,425
1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018	83,102
1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019	82,817
1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020	85,099
1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021	88,723

**Notes:**

1. The number of sickness absence days is calculated over a rolling 12-month period and covers 1 April to 31 March for each year.
2. Data is sourced from HRMS & MYHR departmental personnel systems for MOD Main; TLBs and DE&S Trading Entity. The data also includes equivalent HR systems for Trading Funds and Executive Agencies.

3. Data excludes personnel employed as either Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) personnel or Locally Engaged Civilians (LEC's) for whom equivalent absence data is not held.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA, you may wish to note that mental health sickness tends to involve a relatively small number of people with long periods of absence, and to some extent mental health absences could be regarded as an outlier compared to most other sickness types. One person can have multiple periods and multiple days off sick.

You may wish to know that full data and analysis of Civilian Personnel sickness absence since 2016 can be also found on the Gov.uk website at :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-civilian-sickness-absence>

Please note that the 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 figure is not yet available and is due to be published on 19 January 2023.

Full data and analysis of Civilian Personnel strength by Headcount and FTE from 2018 to the present can be found in the Biannual Civilian Personnel Report on Gov.uk at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-biannual-civilian-personnel-statisticsindex>

Data prior to 2018 can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-civilian-personnel-quarterly-statistics-index>

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, 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 handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Murrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'M'.

**RT HON DR ANDREW MURRISON MP**