



Ministry  
of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2022/09608**

Date: **29/09/2022**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 17/08/2022 requesting the following information:

**“How many foreign and commonwealth citizens have served in the U.K. armed forces between the 11th September 2001 and the 1st of April 2022?”**

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 some of the information in scope of your request is not held.

Specifically, we have no data held prior to 2007 for the nationalities of Royal Navy/Royal Marines and Royal Air Force personnel. As a result of we've only been able to provide data will show data beginning 1 April 2007 for these two services. Nationality is available for for Army personnel beginning 1 April 2001.

**Tables 1 and 2 will be attached with this letter. Table 1 includes data for all three services from 2007 to 2022, and Table 2 includes Army data from 2001 to 2007.**

Table 1 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, includes trained and untrained personnel.

2. Nationality as recorded in the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA). Other Foreign is defined as those excluding from the UK.

3. The Commonwealth grouping includes all personnel with a nationality, as recorded on JPA at the time of publication, that is reported in the British Nationality Act 1981, SCHEDULE 3 (Countries Whose Citizens are Commonwealth Citizens), further information of which is available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/61/schedule/3>. On the 12th November 2015, under the British Nationality (The Gambia) Order 2015, the Gambia was omitted from the Commonwealth. Figures relating

to personnel with a nationality, as recorded on JPA, of Gambian are still included in the Irish and Commonwealth grouping. For further information see <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/1771/contents/made>.

4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in line with disclosure control policy. Figures ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid bias, 5 or fewer is represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.

#### Table 2 Notes and Caveats:

1. The figures are for Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, TA and all other Reserves.

2. Nationality is as recorded at the time period specified and not necessarily the same as at birth or when recruited.

3. Figures are a snapshot at the time period specified and are not a count of unique individuals. For example, an individual who was serving at Apr-01 may also be serving as at Apr-06 and would therefore be counted in both figures

4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in line with disclosure control policy. Figures ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid bias, 5 or fewer is represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. 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.

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](mailto:Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Analysis (Tri-Service)



