



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2023/01510**

[Redacted]

Date: **8th March 2023**

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 02/02/2023 requesting the following information:

“I am seeking statistics on female military personnel that were deployed by UK forces to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission between 2008 and 2014. It is of the utmost importance that the number of women sent to the mission is not cumulative but possibly subdivided by year, since I need to compare it to the number of Italian women who were present in Afghanistan during the same time period, for which I have an exact presence per annum.”

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 all information in scope of your request is held.

Number of Unique Female UK Armed Forces Personnel¹ Deployed^{2,3} on Operation HERRICK^{4,5} with Date of Deployment⁶ between 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2014 by Calendar year⁷

	Number of Female Personnel	
2008		1,670
2009		2,170
2010		2,500
2011		2,730
2012		2,880
2013		2,660
2014		1,590

Source: Analysis (Tri-Service)

Notes:

1. 'UK Armed Forces Personnel' includes UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel and mobilised reservists.
2. Due to ongoing validation of data from JPA, figures provided are provisional and subject to change. Figures have been derived from the January 2023 deployment extract.
3. Deployed personnel are Military personnel who are deployed on Operations. The database records all personnel

who enter a deployment theatre for over 24hrs. Each individual has a new record for each change in deployed unit, location, operation or date.

4. Unique personnel deployed on Operation Herrick refers to how many Service personnel can say they have been deployed on Operation Herrick. A member of Service personnel deployed multiple times would be counted as 1 unique individual deployed.

5. Operation HERRICK is the name associated to all British operations in Afghanistan. Operation HERRICK also encompasses the whole of the Joint Operation Area in the region so personnel deployed to this operation do not have to be solely deployed within Afghanistan. Not all supporting operational posts are geographically located within Afghanistan. Operation HERRICK consists of the British contribution to the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and support to the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

6. The Date of Deployment is the 'deployed date in' as recorded on JPA 'Move and Track' system. This is the date personnel first deployed into the respective count.

7. Please note: the total does not include repeat tours within the same calendar year so each individual is only recorded once per calendar year. If a personnel began a deployment in multiple calendar years they would be reported in each calendar year they were deployed in. Hence, figures can not be combined to give an overall number of unique personnel deployed with a 'Date of Deployment' between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2014.

8. Service personnel data is derived from the JPA system, which is a combination of mandatory and non-mandatory fields populated by unit administrators and voluntary fields that Armed Forces personnel can choose to complete based on their perceptions.

9. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 to prevent inadvertent disclosure. However, numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest 20 to prevent systematic bias.

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). 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)