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of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2023/06725**

Date: **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023**

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 31/05/2023 requesting the following information:

**“FOI request about photographers used by the department in 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and spending so far in 2023/2024. Could I have the figures broken down by financial year to show:**

- a) How much money was spent by the department on using photographers?**
- b) How many photographers the department employs? If it employs zero directly, could it be indicated where the photographers come from i.e. are they part of a pool of civil service photographers that the department can make use of? Are they freelancers hired for the occasion?**
- c) Stated whether the photographers are civil servants or treated as special advisers.**
- d) The salary band for the photographers.**
- e) Whether they are full-time, part-time or freelance.”**

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 most of the information in scope of your request is held and has been provided in this response.

Information in scope of the request is held however part of the information falls within the scope of absolute and qualified exemptions provided under section 21 (information accessible by other means) and section 40 (personal information) of the FOIA. We can provide the number of photographers by military rank, civilian grades and the Future Reserve Photographers by Service and NATO Rank as shown in the tables below.

Please note there is no special pay band for photographers. They are treated as regular personnel on the Main Pay Scale for all three services where pay rates are based on the individual's Rank. Service does not determine the pay rate of a photographer for the Military. All photographers fall under Other Ranks. Under section 21, a breakdown of military salaries for all Other Ranks is in the public domain as part of Quarterly Service Personnel (SPS) Official Statistic publication. The latest statistical release can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-service-personnel-statistics-2023>. The relevant table for published salary bands is Table 12 of the MS Excel Spreadsheet or Open Document Spreadsheet using the link provided. A breakdown of civilian personnel salaries can be found via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mod-organograms-staff-roles-and-salaries>.

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 addition, 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.

**Table 1.1. Number of UK Regular Photographers by Service and NATO Rank as at 1 April 2020-2023**

	1 Apr 2020	1 Apr 2021	1 Apr 2022	1 Apr 2023
<b>Royal Navy/Royal Marines</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>
OR-9	~	~	~	~
OR-8	-	-	~	~
OR-7	~	~	~	~
OR-6	10	15	10	10
OR-4	25	20	25	20
OR-3	-	-	-	-
OR-1/ OR-2	-	-	-	-
<b>Army</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>
OR-9	~	~	~	~
OR-8	~	~	~	~
OR-7	5	5	5	5
OR-6	10	10	10	10
OR-4	25	25	20	20
OR-3	~	-	-	-
OR-1/ OR-2	-	-	-	-
<b>RAF</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>110</b>
OR-9	~	~	~	~
OR-8	-	-	-	-
OR-7	~	~	~	~
OR-6	20	20	20	20
OR-4	30	30	30	30
OR-3	-	-	-	-
OR-1/ OR-2	45	45	45	50

Source: Analysis (Navy, Army, Air)

**Notes:**

1. The figures are for the Trained Royal Navy/Royal Marines, the Trade Trained Regular Army, and Trained RAF, only.
2. Photographers (Army) have been identified as all those in The Royal Logistics Corps with a Trade of "Photographer" as recorded on the administrative system Joint Personnel Administration (JPA).
3. For Army figures, the base rank of a Photographer is Corporal (OR-4). Some personnel transfer to a Main Trade for Pay of "Photographer" as Lance Corporal (OR-3), and whilst undergoing/completing their photography training, gain promotion to Corporal (OR-4)."
4. The photographer (Navy) specialisation includes a small number of Image Analysts, but these cannot be separately identified.
5. RAF TG14(Photo) cover all aspects of photographic and video production including capturing everything from aerial reconnaissance images to public relations portraits, processing, and image management through to output.

6. Main Trade for Pay is only attributable to personnel within the Other Ranks population and therefore will not include Officers.
7. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality. Totals and sub-totals are rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts. Figures fewer than 5 are denoted by '~', and '-' denotes zero.

**Table 1.2. Number of UK Future Reserves 2020 Photographers by Service and NATO Rank as at 1 April 2020-2023**

	1 Apr 2020	1 Apr 2021	1 Apr 2022	1 Apr 2023
<b>Royal Navy/Royal Marines</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
OR-9	-	-	-	-
OR-8	-	-	-	-
OR-7	~	-	-	-
OR-6	~	5	5	5
OR-4	5	~	5	5
OR-3	-	-	-	-
OR-1/ OR-2	-	-	-	-
<b>Army</b>	~	~	~	-
OR-9	-	-	-	-
OR-8	~	-	-	-
OR-7	-	-	-	-
OR-6	~	~	~	-
OR-4	-	~	~	-
OR-3	-	-	-	-
OR-1/ OR-2	-	-	-	-
<b>RAF</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	~	~
OR-9	-	-	-	-
OR-8	-	-	-	-
OR-7	-	~	-	-
OR-6	~	~	~	~
OR-4	~	5	~	~
OR-3	-	-	-	-
OR-1/ OR-2	~	~	~	-

Source: Analysis (Navy, Army, Air)

**Notes:**

1. The figures are for the Trained Royal Navy/Royal Marines FR20, the Trade Trained Army Reserve FR20, and the Trained RAF FR20, only.
2. The FR20 population consists of Group A Army Reserves, some Sponsored Reserves and those personnel serving on FTRS contracts who were previously Army Reservists.
3. Photographers (Army) have been identified as all those in The Royal Logistics Corps with a Trade of "Photographer" as recorded on the administrative system Joint Personnel Administration (JPA).
4. For Army figures, the base rank of a Photographer is Corporal (OR-4). Some personnel transfer to a Main Trade for Pay of "Photographer" as Lance Corporal (OR-3), and whilst undergoing/completing their photography training, gain promotion to Corporal (OR-4)."
5. The photographer (Navy) specialisation includes a small number of Image Analysts, but these cannot be separately identified.

6. RAF TG14(Photo) cover all aspects of photographic and video production including capturing everything from aerial reconnaissance images to public relations portraits, processing, and image management through to output.
7. Main Trade for Pay is only attributable to personnel within the Other Ranks population and therefore will not include Officers.
8. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality. Totals and sub-totals are rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts. Figures fewer than 5 are denoted by '~', and '-' denotes zero.

**Table 1.3. Number of Civilian Photographers as at 1 April 2020-2023**

	1 Apr 2020	1 Apr 2021	1 Apr 2022	1 Apr 2023
<b>Higher Executive Officer</b>	~	~	~	~
FTE	~	~	~	~
<b>Executive Officer</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
FTE	15	15	15	15
<b>Administrative Officer</b>	~	~	~	~
FTE	~	~	~	~

Source: Analysis (Defence Business Services)

**Notes:**

1. Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) figures represent the standard hours an individual works divided by what a full-time employee would complete. Any individual with an FTE below 1 is part time.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality. Totals and sub-totals are rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts. Figures fewer than 5 are denoted by '~', and '-' denotes zero.

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)