



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2023/05350**

[REDACTED]

Date: **22nd June 2023**

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 25/04/2023 requesting the following information:

“Please can you provide data for the year 2022/23 for; 1. All those service personnel Medically discharged from service. Please can you brake this down into each service. 2. All those service personnel who handed in their notice to terminate. Please can you brake this down into each service. 3. Number of service personal employed by the MOD. Please can you brake this down into each service.”

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 the information in scope of your request is partially held.

Question 1

Information in scope of the request is held however the information falls within the scope of the qualified exemption provided under section 22 (intention to publish) of the FOIA and is to be withheld.

Section 22 has been applied to the number of personnel medically discharged from service in 2022/23 as the information is due to be published as part of the Medical Discharge Annual Official Statistic on 13 July 2023. Section 22 is a public qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest of disclosure.

We have considered whether disclosing the information at this stage is in the public interest. Whilst we accept that there is a public interest in the transparency of providing data, we also consider that there is a public interest in being trustworthy, in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics, by releasing the national statistic as planned. On balance, we believe that the public interest lies with waiting for the official statistic publication rather than disclosing the information now

Under section 16 (advice and assistance) you may wish to note that, Defence Statistics release annual updates on medical discharges in the UK armed forces as an Official Statistic publication. The last statistical release was on 14 July 2022 which presented data up to 31 March 2022. The latest report can be found at:

Question 2

Table 1.1. Trained Regular Royal Navy Voluntary Outflow Applications, 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2022

	1st Jan 2022 - 31st Dec 2022
RNRM	2,680

Source: Analysis (Navy)

Notes:

1. The above figure relates to the number of applicants during the time period. It is possible personnel could have submitted multiple applications during the time period, any additional applications are not counted.
2. Applications could have been withdrawn, cancelled, or rejected since the submission date.
3. There is sometimes a delay in VO applications showing in the system therefore this figure should be considered an estimate as records could be updated retrospectively.
4. Figures for the Royal Navy/Royal Marines are not comparable with Army or RAF due to different data sources and methodology.
5. The figure has been rounded to 10 for presentational purposes; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Table 1.2. Army Trade Trained Regular Notice To Terminate (NTT) Applications, 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2022

	1st Jan 2022 - 31st Dec 2022
ARMY	5,350

Source: Analysis (Army)

Notes:

1. The figure is for the Trade Trained Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, Army Reserve, and all other Reserves, but includes those personnel that have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.
2. The figure is for the total number of NTT applications; multiple applications submitted by unique individuals are therefore included in the total figure.
3. The figure does not take account of withdrawals, cancellations, or refusals. If an application is made and then subsequently withdrawn, cancelled, or refused, it is still included in the figure.
4. The figure only includes applications recorded on the Army Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA).
5. NTT application data on JPA is back-dated and the total figure above may be subject to change.
6. The figure has been rounded to 10 for presentational purposes; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Table 1.3. Trained Regular RAF Voluntary Outflow Applications, 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2022

	1st Jan 2022 - 31st Dec 2022
RAF	2,020

Source: Analysis (Air)

Notes:

1. Number does not take into consideration withdrawals of Voluntary Applications.
2. Individuals may submit an application, withdraw, and resubmit an application. Each individual submission would count in these figures.
3. Numbers taken from what has been recorded on JPA.
4. The figure has been rounded to 10 for presentational purposes; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 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.

Question 3

A breakdown of All UK Forces Service Personnel is in the public domain, found in table 1 of our [Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics: 2023 - GOV.UK](#).

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)