



Ministry of Defence

Analysis (Tri-Service)
Ministry Of Defence
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E-mail: Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk

Reference: FOI2023/08199

[Redacted]

Date: 13/07/2023

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 30/06/2023 requesting the following information:

**“Please could you provide me with an update to FOI2021/06521 when you provided me with a response to the following question:
Please could you provide me with any data you hold on the number of (i) gay men, (ii) gay women/lesbian, (iii) bisexual and (iv) heterosexual/straight people that are in the armed forces and how that number may have changed over time. Could you please provide me with the exact numbers that you hold relating to this?”**

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.

Table 1: Strength of UK Regular¹ Service Personnel by Sexual Orientation² as at 1 April 2019 - 1 April 2023

	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-21	Apr-22	Apr-23
Bi-Sexual	390	430	550	690	790
Gay Man	690	690	690	740	740
Gay Woman/Lesbian	620	660	710	760	770
Heterosexual/Straight	24800	26150	30440	35740	37940

Table 2: Strength of UK Future Reserve 2020³ Service Personnel by Sexual Orientation² as at 1 April 2019 - 1 April 2023

	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-21	Apr-22	Apr-23
Bi-Sexual	20	20	30	40	50
Gay Man	60	70	80	80	80
Gay Woman/Lesbian	40	50	50	50	60
Heterosexual/Straight	1870	2160	2320	2540	2670

Notes/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. Sexual orientation as self declared in JPA. It is worth noting that the declaration rate for sexual orientation is very low as it is not a mandatory field on JPA. The 1st Apr 2023 declaration rate for regular personnel is 30.2% and 9.2% for Future Reserve 2020.
3. Future Reserves 2020 includes volunteer reserves who are mobilised, HRR and volunteer reserve personnel serving on Additional Duties Commitment (ADC) or FTRS contracts. Sponsored Reserves who provide a more cost effective solution than volunteer reserve are also included in the Army Reserve FR20. Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) and University Officer Cadets and Regular Reservists are excluded.
4. Figures in this table have been rounded to the nearest 10, though numbers ending in a "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent the systematic bias caused by always rounding numbers upwards.

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)