

Ref: FOI2023/07014

4 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 6 June 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“ May I request to be supplied with the following statistics for Civil servants employed as members of the NISGS at grades of E2 , E1 ,D

- 1,NISGS staff that are recorded as identifying form the Protestant community background.*
- 2.NISGS that are recorded as identifying from the Roman Catholic community background.*
- 3.NISGS that are recorded as identifying from other religious denominations.*
- 4.NISGS that are recorded opted to or are identifying as being from no religious affiliation.*

Also

Could I be supplied with the overall statistics dashboard for all MOD Civil Servants In Northern Ireland

Requested numbers pertain to.

- 1.Total statistics of MoD employees Civil servants by declared denomination.*
- 2.Breakdown of these statistics by grade - Broader banded and skill zones, and individual grades withing those groups.*
- 3.Breakdown of these statistics by gender”.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can confirm that some information is held in scope of your request.

- 1.) As at 31 May 2023, 185 NISGS staff are recorded as being Protestant.
- 2.) As at 31 May 2023, 20 NISGS staff are recorded as Roman Catholic.
- 3.) Information not held or recorded.
- 4.) As at 31 May 2023,155 NISGS staff chose not to disclose or record any religious affiliations.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA, I should explain that MyHR, the MOD's Human Resources management system only captures whether individuals are Protestant, Roman Catholic, Not Determined or have nothing recorded at all. The grades captured in the data are AA, AO, and EO level (E2, E1 and D).

Table 1: Religion or belief for MOD civilians based in Northern Ireland, at 1 April 2023

Religion or Belief	Total
Christian	585
Non-Christian	30
No declared religion	290
Total	905

Table 2: Religion or belief for MOD civilians based in Northern Ireland by Grade, at 1 April 2023

Grade Equivalent	Christian	Non-Christian	No declared religion
Grade 6	5	0	~
Grade 7	10	0	~
SEO	25	~	10
HEO	55	~	20
EO	60	~	30
AO	125	~	55
AA	205	15	130
Skill Zone 4	0	0	~
Skill Zone 3	25	0	10
Skill Zone 2	50	~	~
Skill Zone 1	30	~	10
Unknown	~	0	~
Total	585	30	290

Table 3: Religion or belief for MOD civilians based in Northern Ireland by Sex, at 1 April 2023

Sex	Christian	Non-Christian	No declared religion
Male	400	25	210
Female	190	5	80
Total	585	30	290

Notes:

1. Analysis Civilian source data from MOD HR personnel system, MyHR.
2. Religion or belief is based on voluntary self-declared data as recorded by individual personnel.
3. The religion and belief grouping of 'non-Christian' includes the following options on MyHR: Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Pagan, Humanist and Rastafarian.

Finally, in order to protect personal information governed by the Data Protection Act 2018, Section 40(2) of the FOI Act has been applied to some of the information by supplementing numbers less than 5 with a tilda (~). All numbers have been rounded separately to the nearest five, so totals may not equal the sum of the parts.

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 wish to complain about 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 at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

DBS Secretariat